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'Major lapse' forces resignation

Church faces celibacy row as bishop goes

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A NEW crisis over celibacy threatened the stability of the Roman Catholic Church last night after the resignation of the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, who is believed to be in hiding with the woman he loves.

The Right Rev Roderick Wright quit during an emotional meeting with the leader of Scotland's Roman Catholics, who told him that he could remain a priest only if he gave up his long-standing friendship with Kathleen Macphie, a divorced mother of three. The two disappeared last Monday.

The Archbishop of Glasgow, Cardinal Thomas Winning, said yesterday that Bishop Wright had been guilty of a major lapse and did not appear to realise the trauma that he had caused others. But if someone had fallen, it did not mean that they could not be penitent and Cardinal Winning hoped that he would continue his ministry. "I think in his heart of hearts, that is what he has to do."

The Cardinal's unbending line, while in strict accordance with Catholic law, is unlikely to go down well in a church where growing numbers of bishops, priests and laity are concerned that the celibacy rule is robbing them of hundreds of good priests and pastors. Many, while unwilling to say so in public, believe that change is essential.

Celibacy has been a requirement of the Latin church since the 11th century and was a tradition long before then. But the pressure for change is

growing with about a hundred married former Anglican clergy expected to be ordained into the Catholic church in the coming months. In spite of the apparent double standards, the church still demands celibacy of priests who start with it from scratch.

Now, many people believe that Bishop Wright's resignation will add to the pressure on the Pope, who is facing serious difficulties in Africa and Latin America, where many priests live openly with their mistresses.



es and the chief difficulty when appointing bishops is to find a priest without a common-law wife.

In fact, Bishop Wright has not broken canon law, since the technical meaning of celibacy is to be unmarried. However, priests are enjoined not to cause scandal, so he had no choice but to resign. In his letter to the Pope, Bishop Wright expressed his wish to remain a committed member of the church, but said: "I am

physically and spiritually unable to sustain the responsibilities of a diocesan bishop and ask to be released of my responsibilities."

Bishop Wright, 55, made his decision after disappearing from his home at the same time as Mrs Macphie, 40, left her house in Fort William. And yesterday, Cardinal Winning described the "very emotional" hour-long meeting in Glasgow on Sunday night when it was agreed that the bishop should resign.

"He was insistent on expressing his deep sorrow, regret and hurt caused by his sudden disappearance. I think that the man has been under terrible strain for months, if not years, and having lost a very close sister in the last few months, he was at the end of his tether. He insisted on resigning."

Cardinal Winning had not asked whether the bishop's relationship with Mrs Macphie had been a sexual one. "He has had a long-standing friendship with this lady. You don't need to ask all the questions — you can answer some of them."

He added: "I was not aware of his Achilles heel, his weak spot. But he is a good man and generous enough to give his life to the church. Here we are regretting a major lapse and it is said. But the church is bigger than that and it survives. The resignation must be formally accepted by the Pope before the search for a replacement can begin."

Friends' sorrow, page 2



Anna Ford yesterday after Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, accused her of extreme rudeness, aggression and open hostility to the Chancellor

Furious Tories blame BBC for Clarke blunder

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Conservative Party accused Anna Ford, the *Today* programme presenter, of a "disgraceful lapse from impartiality" in an interview with Kenneth Clarke yesterday which was abruptly ended by the Chancellor.

It lodged a complaint with the BBC alleging that Ms Ford had been extremely rude in an early morning radio confrontation. Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party Chairman, wrote to John Birt, the BBC Director General, that Mr Clarke had

been unable to get his point across because Ms Ford had been so aggressive. He complained that she had been openly hostile and had repeatedly interrupted the Chancellor, who was not given the chance to develop his points.

The Labour leadership contended that Dr Mawhinney was upset because Ms Ford had persuaded Mr Clarke to admit that the Labour Party was no longer the threat it once was. In so doing he had torpedoed the Tories' central election strategy.

The Chancellor made his blunder when he was asked by

Ms Ford if he was pleased that Labour seemed to be changing. He replied: "I am pleased that Labour is not such a threat to the national interest. When we used to have, for instance, Michael Foot leading the party it was a very, very serious threat to this country." Mr Clarke's candid admission appeared to go flatly against the Tories' "demon eyes" campaign theme of "New Labour, New Danger". It also contradicted Dr Mawhinney's carefully orchestrated pre-election campaign which aims to show that New Labour means: "new

danger in every aspect of people's lives".

Only an hour before the interview Dr Mawhinney had been with the Chancellor launching the latest Tory poster. It featured the Labour demon eyes looking down at the figure of £700 and a Labour hand reaching out to grab the money. At the foot of the poster a caption read: "This year the average family has £700 more spending money, after tax and inflation, than at the last election."

During the interview, Ms Ford asked Mr Clarke if he



Clarke: Labour "not such a threat" as it once was

Prince to take on more duties

The Prince of Wales will take over an increasing number of official duties from the Queen but he must face his public role without Camilla Parker Bowles.

Members of the Royal Family gathered at Balmoral for a twice-yearly planning meeting. The hope is that the Prince will now shoulder more of the burden currently borne by the Queen... Page 2

Clinton backs off

As an aircraft carrier battle group arrived in the Red Sea and squadrons of fighters and Stealth bombers sat on the tarmac at a Kuwait base, President Clinton backed away from bellicose pronouncements and said that America had sought no confrontation with Iraq... Page 10

Hogg poised to cut cull if 'hopeless' mission fails

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Florence deal for an end to the British beef ban seemed shakier than ever last night after EU ministers told Britain it must stick to a slaughter programme and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, voiced doubts on Europe's intention to keep its word on easing the embargo.

Farm ministers delivered an uncompromising message to Mr Hogg as he prepared to try to win them over to Britain's belief, based on new evidence, that a far-reaching cull would have little impact on the speed or eradication of mad cow disease.

Ivan Yates, the Irish minister and chairman of the EU farm council, said Britain's commitment to cull more than 100,000 cattle was part of the

Florence accord. Depicting himself as an honest broker between Britain and the other EU states, Mr Yates said there were prospects for easing the ban on grass-fed herds, certified free of BSE, provided that Britain met its slaughter obligations. His stand was backed by Jacques Santer, president of the EU Commission. "We don't need headlines every fortnight. We need to stick to agreements," he said.

Mr Hogg fuelled speculation that Britain could adopt its own slaughter policy. The Government, he said, would "have to assess the extent to which European governments are able or willing to rapidly and substantially lift the ban in accordance with the Florence agreement". He noted

that Germany, France and other states had imposed their own anti-BSE measures against British beef products in breach of EU decisions.

British official sources indicated that Mr Hogg's near hopeless mission was a last attempt to sway the EU before the Government switches policy, cutting the cull and accepting a long-standing EU ban. Senior EU officials said they were aware that John Major now stood little chance of winning Commons approval for the slaughter plan agreed at Florence.

Facing a wall of resistance from the other EU ministers, Mr Hogg is expected to receive a frosty reception when the British plan comes up for formal discussion today.

Ashdown seeks EU secession right

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

PADDY ASHDOWN today delivers his strongest criticism of the way the European Union operates.

In a move that will be seen as responding to growing fears that his party's pro-Europeanism may deter voters, the Liberal Democrat leader calls on the EU to shake up its priorities, become less fussy and bossy, and to do less while doing it better.

He also becomes the first political leader to suggest that the EU should have a right of voluntary secession, allowing member states to leave if they wish.

Writing in *The Times* Mr Ashdown says: "The governance of the European Union is currently wide, weak and loosely defined, when it ought to be narrow, strong and

sharply defined." Mr Ashdown is adamant that his statement of position, drawn up after talks during the summer with the party's spokesman on Europe, Charles Kennedy, does not in any way suggest that he or his party is becoming more Eurosceptic.

The Liberal Democrat leader's article reaffirms the party's support for the single currency and the social chapter. He suggests that if Germany builds a federal core within the EU the "core activities" to be pursued by all member states should be freedoms of movement of people, money, goods and services, the foundations of the single market.

Bossy Brussels, page 16

Scouts pack mobile phone with knives and woggle

By RUSSELL JENKINS

SCOUTS are to get a new badge to sew on their uniforms alongside those for tying knots and campfire cookery: it will mark their prowess at public relations.

The proficiency badge in PR skills will feature a symbolic mobile telephone, a piece of scouting equipment to rank alongside a penknife and woggle.

The Scout Association admits that the aim is to update the public's perception of the movement from Baden-Powell and Empire. Those wanting to qualify for the badge will be asked to give a presentation

about scouting and obtain media coverage about an expedition or activity by preparing a press release. They will also have to produce four editions of a newsletter for their troop, create a visual display for a parents' open evening and arrange a visit to the local newspaper.

The Scout Association, whose motto is "helping young people get the most out of life", said the badge was one of 52 that scouts can work towards. Badges are regularly added or withdrawn.

A spokesman said that modern youth was increasingly acquainted with marketing and promotion techniques and

media studies was an accepted part of the college curriculum.

The badge "could be used to update the stereotype people have of scouting which too often means funny hats, shorts and helping grannies across the road", the spokesman said. "This will hopefully give scouting a bit more street credibility."

Richard Branson, head of the Virgin group and a former scout, acknowledged that the movement has an image problem. "It just isn't very hip. There is a public relations challenge on a par with getting the Tory party re-elected."



The new scout badge in public relations skills

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Champion Hurdler led to safety after suspected arson attack at leading trainer's yard

Four racehorses killed in midnight fire at stables

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT
AND BILL FROST

FOUR racehorses died after a suspected arson attack on the stables of Jim Old, one of Britain's leading trainers, yesterday.

Two were killed in the fire, which started just after midnight in an indoor riding barn. The other two died as a result of injuries as they tried to escape.

Forty horses were in the barn at Upper Hurdswick Farm, on the Marlborough Downs near Swindon, and it was only due to the actions of neighbours and stable staff that many of the horses survived the fire.

One of the rescuers was Merrick Francis, son of the author Dick Francis, who helped to save Collier Bay, which won the Champion Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival in March. Mr Francis, who runs a horse transport business, provided a haven for eight thoroughbreds when he arrived from Lambourn with one of his lorries.

He said that he received a call for help at 3am and rushed to the scene with a horsebox. "We were scrambling around in the dark and the cold. It was the desolation on the faces of Jim and his staff that really got to me. We must have walked more than four miles looking for stray



Francis: rushed to the scene with a horsebox

horses. It was a thick, black night. You could not see your hand in front of your face."

The blaze was discovered by Brian Simpson, a neighbour, and it took 26 firefighters an hour to bring the flames under control. A Wiltshire fire investigation team spokesman said: "We are treating the fire as being of doubtful origin."

Mr Old, 49, was close to tears when he spoke of the pandemonium as he and a dozen stable lads tried to save the horses. "My staff were quite brilliant," he said. "A few more minutes and it would have been a total disaster. The smoke would have killed the horses."

"We turned the horses out into the paddock, but they were so terrified they bolted."

We hung on to eight, including Collier Bay. Merrick came up from Lambourn and they spent the night in his lorry. The rest stayed in the fields or scattered across the downs. They are all back now.

Two died in the fire, another was killed when galloping through a fence, and two or three have got very bad lacerations. Most of the others have got minor cuts.

"The blaze started in the riding barn and Collier Bay was completely at the opposite end. We had to let the other horses out first and he was one of the last we led to safety."

Although much of the indoor riding school was destroyed, the adjacent stables have not been damaged. Mr Old said he feared that some "crank or lunatic" may have been responsible.

It was a view shared by firemen at the scene who were still darning down burning straw late yesterday afternoon. One said: "There is no electrical power source here that might have started this and, in the absence of that cause, there are only a limited number of other options."

Mr Old moved to the 280-acre six years ago. For several seasons, his horses were afflicted by a virus, but the bad luck which has dogged his career appeared to have ended — until yesterday.

There have been attacks on horses put out to graze locally. However, this would be the first time an arsonist had struck against such valuable animals. Although the stables, near Barbury Castle, are surrounded by high wire fencing, any reasonably agile intruder could climb over the gate to the block beyond.

Mr Old lives at the stables with Anne Marie Dartnell, the estranged wife of a former estate manager at Barbury Castle. Her husband, Victor, left the area 18 months ago and now trains point-to-pointers at South Moulton, Devon. Mr Old's ex-wife, Sally Anne, moved to Cornwall when the couple were divorced about a year ago.



Jim Old, left, and Paul Ferguson, a vet, yesterday. The fire destroyed much of the indoor riding school, below



'Satanic' multiple rapist given life sentence

By RICHARD DUCE

A MULTIPLE rapist, twice released from prison only to attack women again, was jailed for life yesterday with the recommendation that he serve at least 20 years. The judge said the behaviour of Harry Bannerman, 55, towards his vulnerable victims had verged on the "satanic".

Chelmsford Crown Court was told that Bannerman had been jailed in 1971 for the rape of a nine-year-old and again in 1980 for raping a woman, aged 39, when he moved to Essex and changed his name.

While working at a home for the elderly, he had begun to prowl the grounds of nearby psychiatric hospitals in search of victims. Bannerman, often known to have posed as an army officer, first lured a 67-year-old woman into his car before raping her. Nine months later, armed with a knife, he raped a second victim, aged 53.

Judge Peter Greenwood told Bannerman yesterday: "You are an evil and wicked man — and more importantly you are a danger to the public. You behaved quite atrociously and your conduct was verging on the satanic."

Bannerman had appeared for sentence yesterday after earlier admitting charges of rape and false imprisonment. He was first jailed in 1971, for raping the nine-year-old and attempting to rape a 12-year-old. He offered both girls 10p to keep them quiet. In 1975, seven months after his release, he was jailed for three years at Exeter Crown Court on a charge of "child stealing". In 1980 he raped a 39-year-old housewife in woods near Manchester. He served eight years.

The 53-year-old woman he raped at knifepoint was a chronic schizophrenic. Eventually police received an anonymous note which led to Bannerman's arrest.

John Whittingdale, Conservative MP for Colchester South and Maldon, said yesterday: "This is exactly the kind of case the proposals for automatic life sentences for rape offenders is designed to address."



Collier Bay, the Champion Hurdler, was rescued

Anger over paedophile sentence

By JOANNA BALE

A PAEDOPHILE who offered to rape young children for a pornographic video was facing a maximum sentence of two years in jail yesterday, prompting calls for more stringent punishment.

Dennis Hundermark, 49, admitted at the Old Bailey that he came from South Africa to Europe to live out his fantasy of starring in a child sex film. He was caught after he approached an undercover police officer who was posing as a video producer.

Hundermark told the members of Scotland Yard's paedophilia and child pornography unit that he was prepared to rape any child, regardless of age or sex. He was arrested before he could live out his fantasies. He admitted incitement to procure a girl under 21 for sexual intercourse, a charge which carries a maximum two years' jail.

Malcolm Fortune, for the prosecution, told the court that he had been unable to find other offences committed by Hundermark which carried a higher term and described the sentence as inadequate. Hundermark was remanded in custody for reports.

Wendy Toms, of ChildLine, said: "If this is the maximum sentence under existing law, then it needs tightening. We hope new paedophile legislation will deal with offences of this kind."

Mystery attack never happened

By PAUL WILKINSON

A LAW lecturer who was accused of beating a girlfriend so badly that she went into a coma was cleared yesterday after medical experts said that she was an undiagnosed epileptic and had probably never been assaulted.

Hugh Stowe, 29, had always denied attacking Joanna Perkins, 28, a fellow lecturer in the law school at Durham University, at the end of a night out in April 1994. She was found collapsed in her university flat two days later. Yesterday the prosecution offered no evidence on a charge of grievous bodily harm at Durham Crown Court. Christopher Knox, for the prosecution, said: "Joanna Perkins and the defendant had been out together socially. They returned to his flat. Later that night she made her way back to her flat and was found two days later in a coma."

"She was dressed ready for bed but was found on the floor. Precisely how she came to be in that coma was initially difficult to establish but cannot be attributed to this defendant. She was ill for some time. The cause of her condition was the starting point for these proceedings."

"This year the defence disclosed a number of reports from eminent medical advisers. Four doctors, including two professors of neurology, say the illness was not caused

by an attack from this defendant. Proceedings for any lesser charge are not justified, partly because of the uncertainty of her memory caused by this illness."

Judge Crawford ordered a verdict of not guilty to be entered and awarded costs to Mr Stowe, who had flown to Britain from his present home in Australia. Mr Stowe, who was accompanied by his father, John, a leading Australian lawyer, refused to comment as he left court.

Miss Perkins, who now lives with her mother in Richmond, Surrey, was not in court. Jon Burroughs, her solicitor, said: "My client does not wish to make any comment." She and Mr Stowe both resigned from the university six months after the incident.



Stowe: cleared because woman was epileptic

Royal PC 'hurt driver after crash'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A ROYALTY protection officer injured a woman by deliberately swinging a car door open after a row following a collision, it was alleged yesterday.

PC Stephen Dunsdon hit Carolyn Verguson on the wrist after swearing at her, Southwark Crown Court was told. He had shown her his warrant card but refused to give his name and number.

Postal worker Miss Verguson, said she was afraid of the officer, who was "ranting and raving". PC Dunsdon, who denies assault occasioning actual bodily harm, was a passenger in a Citroën 2CV driven by his brother. PC Nicholas Dunsdon, who was on his way to work in May last year. The two women were also on their way to work when the collision happened near Tower Hill, London.

Tim Probert-Wood, for the prosecution, said Stephen Dunsdon swore at Mr Thomas and tried to usher Miss Verguson back into the car. After producing his warrant card he became increasingly intimidating, said Mr Probert-Wood.

As the two officers prepared to drive away, Miss Verguson, from Purfleet, Essex, tapped on the passenger window. PC Dunsdon allegedly threw open the passenger door hard, hitting her on the left wrist. The trial continues today.

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German wine comeback in poor taste

By JANE MACQUITT
WINE CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS to prove that there is life beyond Liebfraumilch took a bad turn yesterday with the release of two drier, pricier but still ersatz German wines.

Three years of research by the Deutsches Wein Institut Mainz (DWM) and its UK offshoot, the German Wine Information Service, and up to £1 million has been spent in attempting to make up the declining market for Germany's bestselling sugar-water wine. Sales of sub-£3 Liebfraumilch and its lower quality imitator, £2 Tafelwein Hock, have been ebbing away since the mid-Eighties.

The new Kendermann duo, a harsh,

bitter, plastic-layered 1995 dry rivancer, albeit with a spicy, peachy scent, from the Rheinhessen; and the unscented tart, thin 1995 dry riesling from the Pfalz, are expected to go on sale here this winter for £4 to £5, aimed at the booming British mid-market wine sector.

If they are typical of the 13 "selected" German white wines allowed to wear the new Deutsches Weinsiegel neck label — for "outstanding quality and agreed taste profile" — the death rattle of the bulk of German wine on sale here is nigh.

The latest statistics show that Liebfraumilch sales fell by 9 per cent in 1995, though we still managed to down 12 million cases last year. Up till now there has been little effort by the Deutsches Wein Institut, or the German producers

themselves, to revive sales and resuscitate the industry. Germany's best-quality dedicated single estate wine producers have in their defence been pushing the DWM for years for radical reforms in their hopelessly ill-judged wine laws, whereby technically Liebfraumilch must be QbA, or quality regional wine of pleasant character made from at least 70 per cent of one of four named grapes.

The fact, as many German wine producers admit privately, is that Liebfraumilch and its like is an extremely nasty bulk wine blended down to a rock-bottom price and whose serious faults are only thinly disguised by large quantities of sugar. What a pity then that the DWM and the producers themselves have such a low opinion of the British palate.

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Fine for woman who lured child workers with dance classes



Barot: she paid the children with chocolates

By JOANNA BALE

A COMPANY director used young girls as "slave labour" after luring them to her factory with an offer of free Indian dance lessons.

Sumitra Barot, 30, reassured their parents by showing them pictures of a girl in traditional dress at a display. But after a few classes, she put the girls to work packing spices.

At the end of their six-hour shifts the children, some as young as ten, were ordered to line up in front of Barot's 51-year-old manager, Ramnik

Modi, who would decide whether they deserved to be paid. They were given as little as £2.50 or a box of chocolates.

One girl cried and begged to be allowed home on her first day but was forced to continue. Northampton Crown Court was told yesterday.

Judge Francis Allen said he wished that he had the power to jail Barot and Modi but the law would allow him only to fine them. "Such abuse of young children is wholly unacceptable. In my view, these matters are so serious that a court should consider imprisonment, but Parliament has

given no such power to the courts to pass such a sentence."

Barot, of Corby, Northamptonshire, admitted six charges of employing children at MTL (UK) in Corby. Modi, of Oadby, Leicestershire, admitted five charges. Barot was fined £4,500 with £500 costs and Modi £7,500 with £1,000 costs.

Judge Allen also imposed a £14,000 fine on the company, which had admitted six counts of employing children and a charge under the Factories Act. After being told that it had ceased trading, he said:

"Whether it is ever paid is another thing."

The court was told that MTL's assets had been taken over by a new company, APNA UK, which was run by Modi. Barot was running a shop called APNA Cash and Carry in Northampton, selling food in bulk to Indian restaurants. Barristers for both defendants said that they had been left penniless by the company's collapse.

Outside the court, one angry mother said: "It is true what the judge said that those two abused those children. My daughter is still very upset by

the whole thing, but they've been allowed to escape with fines. They should have gone to prison. They haven't even been disqualified as directors. It's a disgrace."

"Modi has even been allowed to take the assets of a company in which he used children as slave labour and use them to start up in business again. It's all wrong."

Modi and Barot were jeered as they left court. They declined to comment but a statement issued jointly by their solicitors said: "They want to get on with their

respective businesses and put all this behind them."

An earlier hearing was told that the children were used to fill and label jars and packets of mango chutney, curry pastes, curry powder and spices. They used high-temperature heat-sealing machines and several children cut themselves as they used craft knives to open boxes.

They were put to work at weekends and during school holidays and were given child-size overalls to wear. The Health and Safety Executive began an inquiry when the girls' parents complained.

Manager unfairly sacked for eating an orange

By JOANNA BALE

A SUPERMARKET manager was sacked for eating a damaged clementine worth 15p, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. Paul Freahe, 31, lost his job as a Sainsbury products department manager after John Guiver, his superior, saw him eating the fruit in a storeroom. The orange had been withdrawn from sale because its peel was split.

Mr Freahe, who was represented by his local vicar, the Rev Clifford Roseweir, was dismissed from the store at Crystal Palace, southeast London, after 11 years' service.

Mr Guiver, a store manager, said he was shocked when he saw his colleague biting the clementine and was so furious that he had to leave the room to calm down. He suspended Mr Freahe immediately from his £17,700 job — which also earned him £2,300 in bonuses — two weeks before he was due to get married.

Mr Guiver said: "I saw Paul consuming some citrus. The peel was evident on the side on a wooden board. I asked him: 'What's this, sampling the products?' He muttered 'no' but his mouth was still full."

Mr Guiver told the hearing at Croydon, south London, that there were clear procedures for sampling products and that Mr Freahe had not followed any of them.

Mr Freahe's deputy, Lawrence Ault, was given a final written warning for also eating some of the fruit.

Mr Guiver said: "After the decision to dismiss Mr Freahe, I discovered Mr Ault had been consuming the product, and Robbie Smith, a trainee, had also been offered the product."

"This made the situation worse. Mr Ault was issued with a final written warning for being offered the fruit. At the final disciplinary meeting I said I favoured a final written warning for Mr Freahe, who was a manager with good prospects, but unapproved consumption of goods is an instant dismissal."

James Warren, tribunal chairman, said: "It is important that this was a damaged fruit. It would never have found its way to the customer. The company has not lost anything. This case is about someone with an impeccable record over a number of years with a good future in front of him. It seems to me the investigation was concluded with undue haste."

Mr Freahe, of Norwood, southeast London, who now works for a mobile telephone company, was found to have been unfairly dismissed last November. Costs and awards to Mr Freahe will be decided today.

Horror fans and Masons put on list of sinners

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

FREEMASONRY and watching horror films are among "sins" that recruits to the Church of England will be encouraged to avoid. A new course to welcome people into the Christian faith urges Church leaders to discuss aspects of newcomers' lives that are "unhealthy or wrong".

Under the heading "I repent of my sins", the evangelism course, published yesterday, lists occult practices, seances, Freemasonry and cults as activities to be carefully considered. It also mentions unethical investments, fiddling tax returns, pornography, horror films and dishonesty at work.

The course, which is entitled *Emmanuel: The Way of Faith*, tells Church leaders that "the emphasis should be on why these things are unhealthy or wrong, rather than reading out a list of prohibited practices". The list resembles the modern sins recently laid out by the Roman Catholic Church in its new catechism but the Church of England list is shorter.

The General Synod last debated Freemasonry in 1987, concluding that there were "clear difficulties" to be faced by Christians who are freemasons. However, many of the problems raised in the debate have since been addressed by the leaders of Freemasonry.

The Rev Stephen Cottrell, one of five authors of the course, which originated in the Wakefield diocese, emphasised that the course did not set out to prescribe a list of do's and don'ts for new Christians. But he conceded that if he were leading a group and a member confessed to being a

Mason, he would urge them to think carefully about it.

The course has been launched as a national initiative by the Church after it was pioneered at a Halifax church in 1993. St George's, Ovenden, one of the poorest areas of the town, saw a phenomenal growth in membership to several hundred after it was introduced. Mr Cottrell's church, St Thomas's in Huddersfield, has also started using the course. Numbers have doubled from about 55 to more than 100 in four years.

The course bears similarities to another evangelism course, Alpha, which has been phenomenally successful on the evangelical wing of the Church. Begun by clergy at Holy Trinity Brompton in London, Alpha is used by hundreds of churches. But it does not appeal to all because of its strong evangelical tone. Emmanuel is likely to appeal to a broader cross-section.

The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, said: "For too long in the Decade of Evangelism we have talked about the importance of sharing our faith without providing practical help for churches to actually do it." He said the course was aimed at all denominations and traditions.

Church of England leaders are concerned that increasing numbers of people growing up in Britain know little or nothing about Christianity. Mr Cottrell said: "We have tried to make the assumption that they probably won't know very much at all. We are now experiencing the second or third generation of people who are growing up without contact with the Church."



Peter Thompson sold 14 steers and heifers worth a total of £11,000. He was arrested after a college farm manager became suspicious

Head sold college cattle to pay his debts

By PETER FOSTER

THE principal of an agricultural college sold some of its cattle to settle his credit card bills, a court was told yesterday.

Peter Thompson, 55, head of Kirkley Hall Agricultural College in Northumbria, sold prized Aberdeen Angus beef cattle and used the proceeds to settle bills of up to £4,000. He was jailed for six months by Newcastle Crown Court after admitting theft and false accounting.

He sold 14 steers and heifers worth a total of £11,000 between 1989 and August last year. He was arrested after a manager at one of the college's three farms became suspicious. Thompson

was suspended and later resigned from his post.

Tim Hewitt, for the defence, said that Thompson had become so engrossed in his work for the college that his personal finances had fallen into neglect. He said that Thompson, known locally for his work as a rugby union referee, had come under great strain as Kirkley Hall left local education authority control and began to raise its international profile.

Mr Hewitt said: "The seeds of his predicament arose out of the commitment and energy which he put into his job. His life was immersed in the college. This caused him great overwork and stress and it is not without significance that these thefts coincided

with the greatest period of development within the college."

"He was naive in forgetting to pay personal credit card bills in time. He was running up credit card bills, not of a large expense. The most he owed was £3,000 to £4,000, which he had the capabilities to meet. But he saw, through the sales of these cattle, a solution to deal with these bills, which he thought were getting out of control."

Passing sentence, the Recorder told Thompson, who has been living with friends in Alnwick since the break-up of his marriage: "This is a very unhappy case indeed. These offences constituted a substantial breach of trust. I also have to bear in mind that this was not an isolated offence, but

occurred over a period of time. There were eight occasions in all when you chose to behave in that way. I accept you have done a great deal of work with the college. I derive no pleasure in imposing an immediate custodial sentence."

Kirkley Hall, which has 200 full-time students and thousands more part-time, has a respected international reputation. It runs courses in agricultural, horticultural and environmental subjects.

Dr Joanna Martin, the new principal, said: "We are very pleased that this whole sorry episode has been concluded. A new management is now in place and we are looking forward to a bright and exciting future."

Garden 'faced wrong way'

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

A COUPLE have taken an estate agency to court after discovering that the house they bought was facing the wrong way.

Tony Petworth and Susan Booth bought the property in Hedge End, Southampton, believing that it had a sunny back garden facing southwest, which would be ideal for evening barbecues. In fact the plot faces northwest and a neighbouring home blocks the sun late in the day.

Southampton magistrates

were told yesterday that the couple, both keen gardeners, were shocked to discover the true aspect of 42 Malvern Gardens soon after moving in. They had paid £58,000 for the semi-detached house.

The couple sought compensation from the estate agents, Mann and Co South East, and, when that failed, called in Hampshire trading standards officers, who prosecuted the firm under the Property Misdescriptions Act.

The firm, from Southampton, denies making a false statement, as does Jason Franklin, the branch manager, who faces a similar charge.

Mr Petworth, an engineer, said that he was shown details of the house saying that the garden was "southwest facing". He queried this and was told that it should have read southwest facing.

But after moving in, Mr Petworth took out a compass while installing a television aerial and realised the true direction. "I was absolutely devastated," he said.

Mr Petworth contacted Mann and Co seeking £8,000 to cover the costs of moving again. He refused an offer of £250. The case continues.

For sale: the country house with an en-suite 'hermit'

By ALAN HAMILTON

IT MAY be the ultimate challenge to an estate agent's descriptive powers: how do you improve the image of a house when the fixtures include a man living in the garage extension? The answer was imaginative: describe him as a hermit.

However, the "hermit" with legal occupancy at Portkellie, near Helsing, Cornwall, was not amused. Geoffrey Greenald, 83, used to be an estate agent and has counter-attacked by giving viewers to the property his own frank assessment of its flaws.

Mr Greenald, a former chartered surveyor who subsequently ran the village post office, moved into the converted garage six years ago after the then owners offered him lifetime residency in return for buying his post office. Mr Greenald, a widower, is con-

fined to bed with osteoarthritis and maintains his independence with help from his neighbours.

Yesterday he said that Hambro Countrywide, the agents selling the three-bedroom house, did not show him a draft of the particulars describing him. "They made me sound like some senile old fool, an awkward problem that's hanging about. I have every legal right to be here for the rest of my life and I have the legal documentation to prove it."

Mr Greenald was not impressed by the main house, known as The Farthings, which is for sale at £50,000. He says it is worth no more than £30,000, adding: "Personally, I wouldn't touch it with a bargepole."

"It's been empty for 18 months, vandals have broken

in, the rooms are badly laid out, the place is a nightmare to heat and the garden is overgrown. One couple who were looking it over called to see me. I told them what I will tell anybody else: the place needs a fortune spent on it."

One neighbour described him as a nice, harmless man who deserved better; another said the agents' description was demeaning.

Michael Logan Wood, the auctioneer who will sell the house on October 1, was brimming with apology yesterday: "We understood that the occupant was a long-haired person who had opted out of life. All the paperwork describes him as a hermit, and we have not been able to get to see him ourselves. I will certainly apologise publicly: it was never our intention to cause the gentleman distress."



The main house and, right, Mr Greenald's home in the converted garage

□ Natalie Kelley, the two-year-old who died of a rare heart defect (report, September 5) was placed on a waiting list for surgery at 11 months, not at birth. Her operation was not postponed, but the list was long because of what Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds,

CORRECTIONS

describes as "the imbalance between workload and resources at that time, a problem which is being addressed actively". □ The budget for the first of

the new *Star Wars* films (report, September 10) is £38.5 million and the PepsiCo involvement is promotional, not financial. Although George Lucas directed the original *Star Wars* he is the story author and executive producer of the other two films, not the director.

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Hospitals accused of exaggerating expertise to win patients

Women 'misled' on cancer care

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN referred for specialist breast cancer treatment are being misled about the experience of the surgeons who treat them, a report disclosed yesterday.

One in five hospitals claiming to provide specialist treatment for breast cancer, and one in four surgeons who do the work, do not see enough cases to gain the necessary expertise. Some doctors believe hospitals are under pressure to exaggerate their services because of the pressures of the internal market.

A directory listing the 220

British hospitals which provide specialist treatment for breast cancer, published yesterday by the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, shows that 40 hospitals — 19 per cent — see fewer than 100 new cases a year, regarded as the minimum necessary for a breast cancer unit to develop specialist expertise. Figures also show that of the 194 lead surgeons operating in the units, 46 devote fewer than three half-days a week to breast cancer work — the minimum judged necessary to maintain their skills.

Richard Sainsbury, consultant surgeon at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and a mem-

ber of the directory steering group, said that many of the smaller units would have to merge to survive. Hospitals knew they could not succeed in the internal market if they lost their cancer services, leading some to make inflated claims.

He said: "An appreciable number of women are not getting the benefit of treatment by a specialist team. The real problem is that there is no formally agreed definition of what constitutes a specialist breast surgeon."

Breast cancer claims 13,000 lives a year in Britain but treatment in a specialist breast unit can significantly improve a woman's chances of survival.

In July the Government issued guidance for health authorities on what breast units should provide after publication of a national cancer policy aimed at ending the "cancer lottery" and giving every patient access to the highest standards of care.

The directory, which is intended to help GPs to locate the best local breast cancer service, shows that 17 per cent of hospitals do not follow the recommendations on diagnosis of breast cancer and make patients wait at least a week for the results.

Mr Sainsbury said that training for general surgeons who wished to specialise in

breast cancer had now been agreed by the Royal College of Surgeons and the first course would start next February. "It will be a lean time for the next three years until these people come on stream."

Many hospitals were unable to provide basic information on the number of new breast cancer patients treated and 30 per cent of the figures in the directory are estimated.

Dr Miriam Stoppard, speaking at the launch of the directory, together with a guide on the management of breast cancer for GPs, said: "Every breast cancer patient has the right to the best treatment on offer."



James fought the system to change her consultant

Surgery video banned

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE release of a video film of NHS operations was banned by a High Court judge yesterday until every patient, surgeon and health trust involved agreed to its sale.

IMC Videos, which made *Everyday Operations*, said that it would seek permission from the 27 patients, the doctors and trusts. But the Department of Health said that even if none objected the court's approval would still be needed.

Officials believe it unlikely that everyone will agree to the sale of the film, which includes footage of penile and breast implants. However, it could still be sold overseas and re-edited for the British market using only film of those who give their permission.

Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, fought to prevent its release, flying from Scotland to London on a Sunday afternoon in August to ensure that an injunction was obtained hours before it was due on sale.

Mother had to fight for the best treatment

By JEREMY LAURANCE

LINDA JAMES received the specialist treatment she required for her breast cancer only after demanding that she be referred from her local hospital in North Yorkshire.

Doctors had removed one lump from her breast but failed to notice a second. When analysis showed that the first lump was cancerous, she was told that the surgeon was going on holiday

and that she would have to wait for a second operation. "I went out into the corridor and cried," she said.

Ten days after the second operation, she found a large growth in her lymph nodes. As a result of chatting with a friend, she got herself referred to an oncologist at another hospital, who gave her chemotherapy and recommended a mastectomy. She chose to travel 50 miles to have the operation performed by a specialist, rather than

rely on her local hospital. Mrs James, 42, who has three children and runs a fruit company with her husband, said:

"I had to fight the system to change my consultant. I did not want to be treated by a general surgeon, to wait three weeks for an appointment, to be processed in an impersonal production line and then be left to wait in a corridor with devastating news."

"It simply wasn't good enough. For all the talk of statistics, it is a straight

case of either you live or die. You don't get a second shot. If you get off to a bad start, that damages your chances."

Mrs James, who was diagnosed in 1991, has since had a second mastectomy after her sister died of the disease last year. "I often felt I had better treatment than my sister because I fought for it. It is the initial referral that is crucial. Patients may have to be prepared to travel to get the best treatment. It could save their lives."

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Royal Mail regrets to inform you that the CWU is intending to take further strike action and is refusing to allow its members to vote on a deal reached after more than 100 hours of talks at ACAS. The deal includes a new pay and benefits package, a shorter working week and job security.

The union has called for stoppages that may result in letter deliveries and collections being affected on Saturday September 21st and Monday September 23rd. In each case the strikes, lasting 24 hours, are due to begin the night before.

- Royal Mail will do everything possible to keep the mail moving, although delivery and collection of letters will vary depending on local circumstances.
- Business customers should ring their normal Royal Mail contact for details.
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Tell-tale signs of a headache's sinister cause



MEDICAL BRIEFING

A DOCTOR was ordered to be struck off the medical register for serious professional misconduct last week after he diagnosed peanut allergy as the cause of a five-year-old girl's headache. Eliza Connelly had a brain tumour.

On short acquaintance, Dr Robert Blomfield, who has been given 28 days to appeal, seems to be a man dedicated to his patients and utterly selfless. But careful examination and accuracy of diagnosis, to be confirmed later by special tests, is all-important. To deprive a patient of the advantages of modern treatment which can stem from an early diagnosis is rightly considered to be serious professional misconduct.

Dr Blomfield's enthusiasm for non-traditional medicine seems to have blinded him to a wealth of disturbing symptoms and to have prevented him from carrying out a standard examination. Patients always worry about headaches and so do their doctors, but there are differences between those which, for example, stem from tension, fevers, arthritic conditions to the neck, toothache and sinusitis and the type of headache which left Eliza blind, partially paralysed and hard of hearing.

Medical students are taught from their earliest days on the wards to remember that, when a patient complains of a headache, there is always the possibility of a tumour and that, in older

patients, the tumour has often spread from a cancer elsewhere in the body.

The headaches caused by brain tumours are often worse in the mornings and improve once the patient is up. Such a headache tends to recur every morning and, as the tumour grows, the time in the day that the headache fades becomes progressively later until finally it is always present.

The headache from a tumour is worse when the patient stoops and may be associated with nausea, vomiting, dizziness and changes in vision. There are often subtle alterations in personality as well as obvious irritability, as in Eliza's case, and in 20 per cent of cases patients with cerebral tumours have epileptic fits.

As the tumour grows, it presses on nerve tracks with subsequent loss of muscle power and weakness in the limbs. Eliza's was so large that, when she was seen by Dr Blomfield, it had obstructed the free flow of the cerebral spinal fluid and was giving rise to hydrocephalus. Little wonder that she had an agonising headache, uncoordinated gait, vomiting and was irritable and unusually sensitive to noise and light — a very different picture from the headache suffered by the stressed, overtired, hungover or feverish.

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140,000 young are homeless

By IAN MURRAY

ONE in ten people aged between 16 and 25 is homeless or in housing need, according to an independent report issued yesterday.

More than 140,000 were homeless last year, and a further 175,000 were living in hostels or with friends and relations who wanted them to move out. The report was compiled by the YMCA and Staffordshire University, helped by 350 housing-related agencies.

The ten main charities involved, including The Children's Society and Barnardo's, say that the findings "reveal a stark picture of modern Britain with a huge, unrecognised underclass of young homeless people trapped in poverty and denied access to social housing". They claim that £2,400 per taxpayer could be saved over two years if housing benefit were available for those on the streets, while the human cost to the individual and the social cost are incalculable.

Labour to offer state cash for mortgage insurance

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR leaders plan to protect thousands of homeowners from repossession by creating a mortgage insurance scheme financed by both the state and private sector.

A partnership between a Labour government and mortgage lenders is being considered to increase the take-up of private insurance schemes. Labour believes a joint venture would reduce premiums while tightening rules to prevent insurers from avoiding payouts when mortgage holders lose their jobs.

Insurers would have to offer cheaper mortgage protection policies but would cover mortgage payments only for a limited period, not indefinitely as usually at present. In return, a Labour government would take on the long-term risk by providing cover for homeowners out of work for more than a year.

The move to offer extra help to homeowners comes as Tony Blair prepares to lead a winter campaign on housing by giving warning of the dangers of rising property prices and the risk of more repossessions. He

will expand on a speech made earlier this year calling on banks and building societies to allow borrowers "mortgage holidays" for changes in financial circumstances.

Senior figures in the Labour Party and banking believe that, by making a joint insurance scheme more affordable, an incoming government could drastically reduce the 50,000 annual repossessions. Labour's plans are intended to go further than the government mortgage protection

scheme by reassuring borrowers that mortgage payments will be met and by giving more state help to homeowners who return to low-paid jobs.

New borrowers receive state help towards mortgages only after being out of work for nine months and having less than £16,000 in savings. They face tougher restrictions on help towards a mortgage if they take on low-paid work, whereas poorly paid workers in rented accommodation can

claim housing benefit. The costs of the new scheme, likely to be up to £500 million a year, would be offset partly by the reduction in repossessions. Each year about 20,000 people claim housing benefit towards rent after repossession. Industry experts believe the net government cost would be about £250 million.

The plan is aimed at halving monthly insurance premiums, which cost about £350 for each £100 of mortgage. Lenders say that premiums are high because insurance is taken up by only one in ten of the ten million borrowers, and mainly by those at greatest risk of unemployment. Only one in four new borrowers takes out insurance.

Senior Labour figures are concerned about rising house prices in the early months of a Labour government. With property inflation in many areas expected to be 10 or even 15 per cent by next summer, the Bank of England could demand an early interest-rate rise, damaging economic growth at the start of a new term of office.

Prices continue to rise

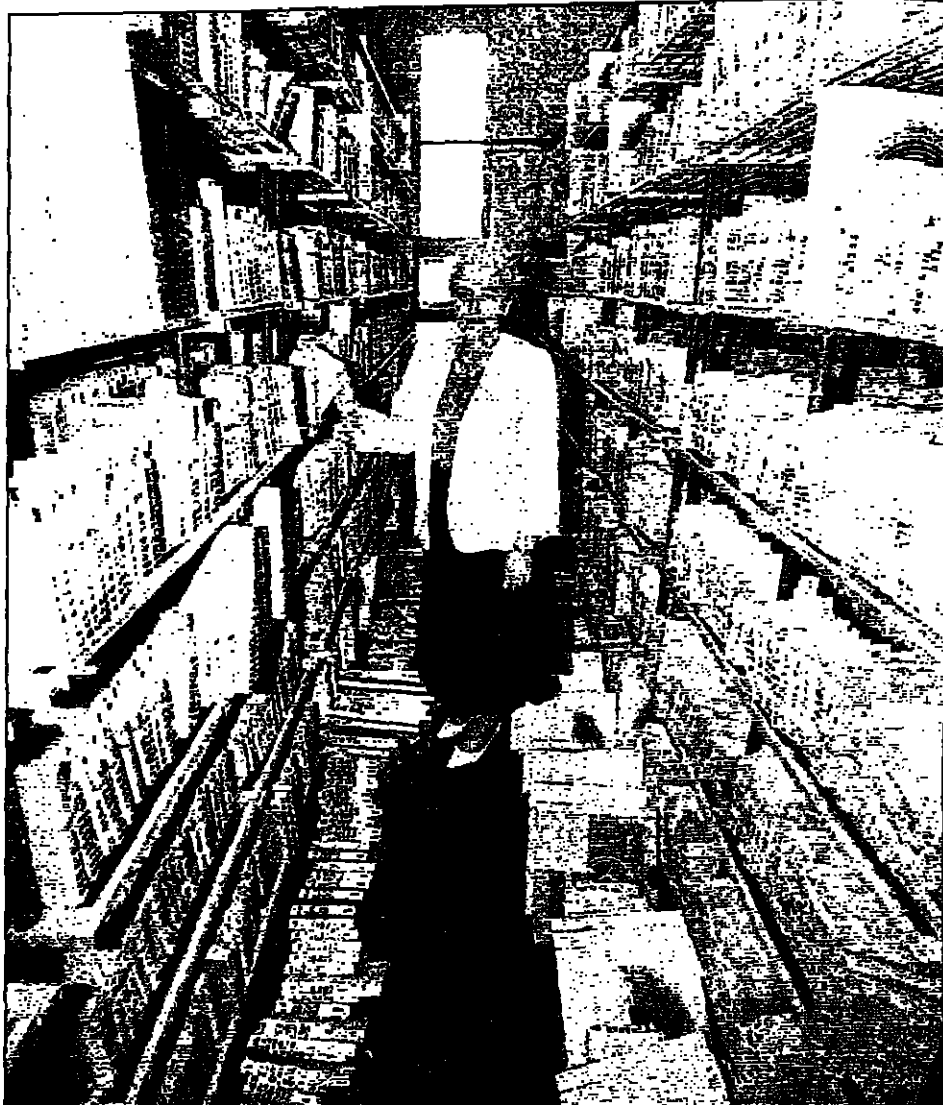
THE autumn housing market is expected to be the strongest for eight years, according to the latest quarterly survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Rachel Kelly writes).

An "unusually vigorous" summer for the property market continued throughout August, a traditionally slow month, the report said. London, the South East, the South West and East Anglia saw the highest number of chartered

surveyors reporting price increases. In London, 84 per cent said prices were rising.

Ian Perry, the institution's housing market spokesman, said: "The market has been improving for 12 consecutive months. It is no longer a question of recovery; the improvement is definitely here to stay."

Country homes and two and three-bedroom pre-1960 houses have seen the biggest price increases.



Hoard of buried musical treasures: inside the Russian State Radio Archive

Russia releases secret music of 'decadent' greats

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

RUSSIAN recordings by some of the century's musical masters, including Dmitri Shostakovich, Herbert von Karajan and Artur Schnabel, are being released for the first time since they were banned by the Soviet authorities as too decadent.

About 400,000 suppressed tapes survived because orders to destroy them were disobeyed. Under musical glasnost, they are now to be marketed by a British company after being remastered with the help of a Russian noise-reduction system originally developed by the Soviet Defence Ministry for cleaning KGB surveillance tapes.

As the October issue of *Gramophone* will report, Telstar Records has been granted exclusive rights for their worldwide release after extensive negotiations, which involved Russian musicians writing an open letter to President Yeltsin calling for his support in making them available commercially.

The music was rediscovered in 1989 among 1.2 million tapes in the Russian State Radio Archive. Staff had stored some in boxes for balalaika ensembles and folk groups, or hid them at home under floorboards.

Staff at the broadcasting station refused, for example, to erase tapes of the cellist Mstislav Rostropovich after he left the Soviet Union. Some were broadcast under the name of politically acceptable

musicians. Historic recordings include a 1949 concert in Moscow in which the American singer Paul Robeson sang in English, French, Spanish, Yiddish and Chinese. It had never been heard in the West.

A spokeswoman for Telstar said: "The archive is home not only to audio history but also video recordings, including thousands of hours of Rubinstein and Menuhin, besides other notable artists."

They estimate the value of these recordings to be £7 billion. Thirty CDs were released yesterday on a label called Revelation. Among them is Shostakovich playing his sonata for cello and piano in D Minor. Eight more will be issued each month and a rare repertoire series will be launched with six titles a month from January.

Valentin Lazouitkin, chairman of the Federal Service on Television and Radio of the Russian Federation, said: "Our goal is to present an encyclopaedia of music, a complete picture of Russian culture. Under communism there was a feeling that our culture was different from the West, but in fact we were always an integral part of world culture."

Even though he left, Rostropovich was always thought of as Russian. Shostakovich still influenced music from behind an Iron Curtain, even though some of his best performances were never allowed to be heard.



Out of the cold: Shostakovich, left, and Rostropovich

Crash pilot had no recent flying time

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Royal Navy pilot who had only seven hours' flying time in nine weeks crashed his Harrier into a hill during a training exercise with RAF Tornadoes, killing himself and a passenger, an inquest was told yesterday.

Lieutenant-Commander Mike Auckland had not had recent Harrier flying experience. Chief Petty Officer Stephen Brookes, a mechanic, also died. Each was married with a young family.

The Royal Navy Sea Harrier, a T4 training version, was taking part with an RAF Harrier in a feigned attack on three Tornadoes. The coroner said that neither pilot had had recent experience in Harriers. For that reason it was decided that there should not be a close contact and the Harriers disengaged after pointing towards the Tornadoes.

When the inquest opened in February, Michael Rose, the

West Somerset Coroner, said: "The risks servicemen undertake in peacetime are taken too much for granted." Yesterday he said: "Flying a modern service aircraft is an extremely difficult task and it is imperative that pilots have current flying experience. The recommended currency is 16 hours a month." Lieutenant-Commander Auckland had only seven hours in 68 days.

The aircraft crashed into the Blackdown Hills at Burnworthy on February 23. Lieutenant-Commander Mark Vost, commanding officer of 899 Sea Harrier training squadron at the Royal Navy Air Station at Yeovilton, said it was fitted with radar, but a device giving audio and visual warning of low flying was not working and would not have given an accurate reading when banking.

The inquest was adjourned until today.

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مكتبة من الأصل

History repeats itself as Bosnia voters lay the ground for war

SIX years ago, the elections complete, the three sectarian-oriented nationalist parties triumphant. Bosnia's parliament sat in uneasy coalition, headed by a collective presidency including Serb, Muslim, and Croat representatives. Irreconcilable rifts remained, though, for the Serbs wanted to remain part of Yugoslavia, the Croats wanted to leave the federation as it was then, and the Muslims clung to Bosnian sovereignty. The Government broke down within a year and Bosnia was at war within 18 months.

Little appears to have changed. The above scenario was the reality after Bosnia's first free elections, in November 1990, when three parties, respectively the Serb Demo-

cratic Party (SDS), the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) and the Muslims' Party for Democratic Action (SDA) won seats in a parliament that represented the approximate sectarian ratios of the state. The SDA took 43 per cent of the seats, the SDS 35 per cent and the HDZ 21 per cent.

As votes from Bosnia's most recent election begin to be counted, too many parallels to 1990 remain for there to be much optimism. The main parties contesting the vote now are those that did so then. Their leadership and aspirations are almost identical.

The Serbs, if anything, have become more radicalised by their battlefield defeats last year. What-ever lip-service the SDS pays to the



Anthony Loyd reports from Tuzla on the latest elections that have solved little in Bosnia except confirming the likelihood of renewed fighting

Dayton accords, its leaders and supporters remain committed to unifying the "Serb Republic" entity within Bosnia and Herzegovina with Serbia proper.

"There are many Serbs like me who had little time for the SDS before the war and were happy to live with the Muslims," said a young Bosnian Serb soldier voting for the SDS in Doboj on Saturday. "But the war came regardless of

our wishes and we have lost a lot fighting the Muslim soldiers. I gave my youth to the war. Why should we live with them again now? It was what we fought against."

Croats voting in Vitez on Saturday waved placards of their former HDZ leader, Dario Covic, indicted on charges of war crimes against the Muslims in central Bosnia and still at liberty in

Croatia, carrying the words "We shall not give him up". The HDZ, though part of the Muslim-Croat Federation, is as hardcore as the SDS in its nationalist aspirations, and the federation's unity is at best tenuous: most Croats in Bosnia still want unity with Croatia.

"I am leaving Bosnia after two and a half years of effort to implement the federation," a senior UN official said, two weeks ago, "and I have never felt so depressed as to the chances of its working as I do now."

The Muslims, comprising more than 44 per cent of Bosnia's 4.35 million population, were their obstacle then and are their obstacle now. The Muslims continue to believe in themselves as the right-

ful heirs to a unified sovereign state undivided by the land-hungry neighbours on their flanks.

One adviser of the body which planned last weekend's polls, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, said: "No way should these elections have happened now. Every side is already being retrained and retrained with sophisticated weaponry. The last war was bad enough with Second World War armaments. Watch this space: two years from now and it will be back to trenchlines, uniforms and the sound of gunfire."

□ Sarajevo: Although organisers of the Bosnian elections have declared the polling a success, international monitors said yester-

day that they observed widespread voting irregularities, but results would be probably certified as there had been no blatant acts of interference (Stacy Sullivan writes). Among the problems were many refugees being bussed in from Serbia to cast ballots in places where they had no intention of living and many people being rendered ineligible to vote because their names were not on rosters.

On election day, 137,000 refugees living in Serbia crossed into the Serb Republic to vote. Although casting a ballot in a Bosnian town was supposed to indicate a will to live there, many Serbs said they had no intention of living in those towns and said they were forced to vote there.

Bus hijack raises new obstacle to Chechen ceasefire

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

SUSPECTED Chechen gunmen yesterday seized a passenger bus in the southern republic of Dagestan, triggering a hostage crisis which threatened to derail the shaky peace deal between the Kremlin and Chechen rebels.

According to reports reaching Moscow, the two hijackers commandeered the bus and ordered the driver to take them to the airport at Makhachkala, Dagestan's capital. They exchanged 36 unharmed hostages for a local deputy, Gadzhir Makhachev, and demanded \$100,000 (£66,000) in cash.

The incident threatened to overshadow the latest peace mission by General Aleksandr Lebed, Russia's security chief, who will travel today to the region in an effort to salvage his stalled peace deal.

Less than three weeks after he announced that the 21-month war was over and signed a peace agreement with Colonel Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen rebel commander, General Lebed's initiative

has ground to a halt and both sides are openly threatening to resume hostilities.

The latest warning came from Colonel Maskhadov, considered the most moderate figure in the Chechen separatist hierarchy, who accused political intrigues in Moscow of attempting to reignite the conflict. "It is very fragile," said the former Soviet army officer in a television interview. "I am doing the best I can. But if the agreement is violated, then what can we do? We will fight."

His remarks followed the decision on Thursday by General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, the commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, to suspend the troop withdrawal, a key provision of the peace agreement. He insisted that he would not pull out any more soldiers until a disagreement over prisoner exchanges was resolved. The Russians maintain that a number of people said by the Chechen side to be prisoners of war are in fact common criminals.

Other Russian officers have accused the rebels of reneging on their side of the bargain by regularly breaking the ceasefire agreement and secretly smuggling guerrillas into Grozny after they had supposedly been withdrawn. The Russians have been particularly incensed by rebel moves to consolidate their hold on Chechnya, in particular an order by Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the Chechen separatist leader, to replace Russian law with *sharia*, the strict Islamic code. The Muslim law, which provides for the amputation of the right hand for thieves, has led to several public floggings for alcohol offences.

Reports about the spread of Muslim fundamentalist practices has played into the hands of General Lebed's political opponents, who have made no secret of their desire to torpedo his peace initiative and with it his credibility.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, predicted that the peace deal was the "beginning of Russia's



A Russian officer and a Chechen fighter attaching explosives to a tree pierced by a mortar in a joint exercise to clear dangerous devices

territorial disintegration", because of the provision which defers the issue of Chechnya's final status for at least another five years.

Part of the reason for the strength of opposition is Gen-

eral Lebed's popularity. A new opinion poll by the Mnerie agency showed this week that the Afghan War veteran had a 75 per cent approval rating for his peace efforts, compared with only 15 per cent approval

for President Yeltsin, who started the war in December 1994. Ultimately much will depend on Mr Yeltsin's position. He has so far offered muted support for General Lebed, although he denounced

provisions for the rapid withdrawal of Russian troops from the area. It is still not clear how involved Mr Yeltsin will be in day-to-day affairs of state. Over the weekend he was admitted to Moscow's

Central Clinic Hospital for tests ahead of his multiple heart-bypass operation. Specialists said that a final decision about the open heart surgery will be made at the end of this month.

Estonia makes the grade

FROM THOMAS DE WAIL IN MOSCOW

THE Baltic republic of Estonia quietly overtook higher-profile rivals such as the Czech Republic and Poland yesterday and became the first country in the region with an economy strong enough to "graduate" from United States assistance programmes.

In a ceremony in Tallinn, the capital, USAid, the American government technical and humanitarian aid organisation, formally closed its operations after five years and \$30 million (£19 million) of projects, making Estonia the first country in Central or Eastern Europe to be given that accolade.

In the five years since independence, Estonia, a country of 1.5 million people and the smallest former Soviet republic, has become, in economic terms, the mouse that roared.

It has totally switched its trade, 90 per cent of which used to be with Russia, to the West, especially the Scandinavian countries and Germany. Inflation last year was 28 per cent, down from 100 per cent a month five years ago.

Monaco Princess bows to calls for divorce

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS



Stephanie: obeying father

PRINCESS STEPHANIE of Monaco said last night she was to divorce her husband after the publication of photographs of him with a Belgian striptease dancer.

With her father, Prince Rainier, urging the couple to separate, Princess Stephanie renounced all hope of a reconciliation with Daniel Ducruet, the bodyguard who became her husband. The Princess's lawyer said the couple would start proceedings immediately.

As Italian and Spanish magazines continue to print graphic photographs of M Ducruet at a poolside in the company of the topless Belgian dancer, Fily Houteman, the affair is shaking the principality. The magazines have been banned by Prince Rainier but are available under the counter in many bars and cafes in Monaco.

Local residents, many of whom paid homage to Prince Rainier's wife, the actress, Grace Kelly, at a ceremony to mark the 16th anniversary of her death on Saturday, have told journalists they are angered and bemused.

Princess Stephanie's marriage to a man widely criticised for social climbing was barely accepted in Monaco, and the scepticism has been reinforced by M Ducruet's

romps. Aware that the Princess's marital problems threaten to damage the entire Grimaldi family, which has ruled Monaco for the past 700 years, Prince Rainier "strongly advised" a divorce, according to royal sources.

There have even been reports in serious French newspapers and magazines that the Prince might be behind the affair in an attempt to drive M Ducruet out of the country. The press said M Ducruet had been set up, since he was photographed as soon as he arrived at Miss Houteman's side at a villa on the French Riviera. Returning from Mo-

rocco, he met his wife and there were suggestions that the couple, who have two young children, made a final attempt to save their marriage. Sources close to Princess Stephanie said she wanted to see if a reconciliation was possible. Faced with the hostility of her father, she last night accepted the inevitability of a divorce.

The affair comes at a bad time for Monaco, which has been affected by financial difficulties and scandals. The world-famous casino has reported a fall in takings and there have been rumours of Mafia infiltration into an economy that experienced golden years during the 1980s.

The Grimaldi family's prestige remains one of the principality's strongest assets, making the Ducruet affair all the more harmful. Having known a height of popularity during Prince Rainier's marriage to Grace Kelly, the family has suffered problems similar to those of the British Royal Family.

Last week Princess Caroline was forced to deny speculation that she had fallen seriously ill after the publication of photographs showing her to be bald. Meanwhile, Prince Albert remains, in the words of a French magazine, "desperately unmarried".

Illness of Pope fuels scepticism

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AS SURGEONS at the Gemelli Hospital in Rome prepared to perform the sixth operation on the Pope in his 18 years in office, a chorus of scepticism greeted the Vatican announcement that the pontiff's repeated illnesses since his collapse last Christmas are due to "recurring inflammation of the appendix".

"This is an announcement which hides too many mysteries," *il Messaggero* said. *Corriere della Sera* said that the announcement by Dr Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the chief Vatican spokesman, had failed to reassure the public "because this diagnosis simply does not square with the kind of suffering we can all see the Pope enduring".

Professor Carlo Caruso, a leading surgeon at Rome University Umberto I Hospital, said: "This is a gigantic lie to hide something much graver." He said the appendectomy would offer surgeons a chance to check for more serious problems and suggested that there may have been a recurrence of the kind of "benign" tumour removed from the Pope's colon in 1992.

The pontiff almost certainly will enter the Gemelli after his visit to France this week and the beatification of 13 Polish martyrs on October 6.

Hungary-Romania treaty boosts hopes of joining EU and Nato

FROM SEAN HILLEN IN TIMISOARA, ROMANIA

AS PROTESTERS waved banners in the streets, the Prime Ministers of Romania and Hungary signed an historic treaty in Timisoara yesterday, in which they agreed to respect each other's borders and protect the rights of the Hungarian minority in Transylvania.

The accord is seen by the two leaders, Nicolae Vacaroiu of Romania and Gyula Horn

of Hungary, as a key step to European Union and Nato membership. The northern region of Romania, where six million ethnic Hungarians live, has been the focus of tensions for some years. Riots several years ago left three people dead and scores injured. The treaty comes after EU and Council of Europe recommendations that the Hungarian minority be

allowed their own local administrations and education in their language. Territorial autonomy on ethnic lines is ruled out.

The treaty has drawn criticism from some Romanians and Hungarians. Gheorghe Funar, head of the Romanian National Unity Party, said it was "a self-out encouraging Hungarian independence movements in Transylvania".



Bladder Discomfort?

Nicky finds a herbal remedy

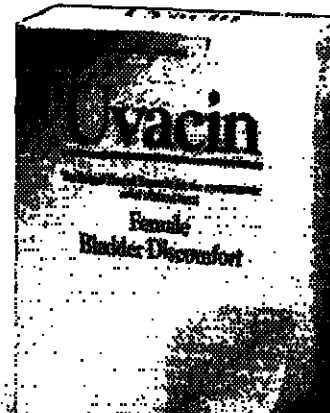
Nicky wouldn't miss riding for the world. But recently her fun was spoiled by a slight bladder problem.

"There's nothing that spoils your ride more, than bursting to go, with no loo in sight! When I did go, it used to sting, then I'd need to go again minutes later. Fortunately though, I was saved by Julie from the stables."

Julie suggested Nicky try Uvacin, a herbal remedy based on dandelion and bearberry. Uvacin tablets help flush and disinfect the urinary tract and bladder and are proven to relieve short term discomfort.

"I had no idea herbal medicines could be so effective. Now riding is a pleasure once more!"

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Swiss open books on Nazi gold to prove 'our innocence or guilt'

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

THE Swiss Government yesterday backed a wide-ranging inquiry into all Nazi financial dealings with Switzerland: and there were indications that investigators may have to account for the whereabouts of SwFr1.2 billion in Nazi gold — much more than previously reported.

In an analysis of gold transactions, the Swiss National Bank said that it received SwFr1.63 billion of gold from the Reichsbank during the Second World War. The report, which was published in 1985, said that 428 million was left with the Bank for International Settlements and other financial institutions. The rest was sold to the National Bank.

The figure is far greater

than the SwFr500 million that a British Foreign Office report indicated might be outstanding after the Swiss made a reparation payment of SwFr250 million in 1946. "These are things that must be clarified," a National Bank spokesman said.

Flavio Cotti, the Swiss Foreign Minister, said he took the accusations launched in the British media very seriously. "We are called to prove our innocence or to admit our moral guilt, which some believe has already been established," he said. "These accusations have seriously damaged Switzerland's public image."

The Government promised to shed full light on dealings with Nazi Germany and said

that its proposed investigation committee would undertake "definitive, exhaustive and transparent" research. "Even if the issue has been used in America for domestic political reasons against banks and Swiss financial institutions, the request of Jewish organisations is justified," it said in a statement.

The committee, which would have the power to suspend banking secrecy laws in the course of its inquiry, is widely expected to receive parliamentary approval before the end of the year. Hans Meyer, chairman of the National Bank, welcomed the inquiry. "We believe the operations did not mark a glorious moment in the bank's history," he said.

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Atlantis lifts off on its way to pick up Shannon Lucid, America's record-breaking woman astronaut, from Russia's Mir space station

Shuttle to bring home queen of the orbits

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE American space shuttle Atlantis blasted off yesterday to bring home the record-breaking woman astronaut Shannon Lucid, who has spent the last six months cooped up on Russia's Mir space station.

Mrs Lucid, who was to have returned to Earth almost two months ago, was excited about coming back to "cycling, feeling the wind in your face and the sun on your back".

The 53-year-old mother of three adult children also looked forward to falling into the arms of her husband, Michael, with whom she has communicated via computer e-mail, plus occasional telephone and video transmissions. By the time she returns on September 26, she will have set an endurance record for a woman of 188 days in orbit — her only company being two Russian cosmo-



Lucid: wants to feel the wind in her hair again

nauts, who helped her to adjust to life in space by offering her the occasional tot of vodka (an unknown luxury for American astronauts, who are not supplied with alcohol).

"She is an outstanding person," said General Uri

Glazkov, deputy commander of the Russian cosmonaut training academy. Before Mrs Lucid arrived on Mir, General Glazkov committed a minor gaffe by commenting that she knew women loved to clean, implying that she might usefully pack a duster for her space adventure. Any awkwardness soon passed. "Everybody loves her," said the general.

Mrs Lucid's return to Earth was delayed, first, by technical problems in early August and later by two hurricanes which threatened to blow the space shuttle off its launch pad.

Mrs Lucid, speaking to a television reporter via a satellite link, said she was "packed and ready" and fantasised about visiting bookshops and roller-skating with her daughters. "I miss my family most of all," she said with her customary grin.

Kuwait's delay in allowing build-up of US troops adds to Washington discomfort

Outmanoeuvred Clinton softens anti-Iraq line

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON, apparently outmanoeuvred by President Saddam Hussein, embarrassed by his allies and facing Republican attacks for a weak military strategy, backed away from previous bellicose pronouncements yesterday and said that America had sought no confrontation with Iraq.

As an aircraft carrier battle group arrived in the Red Sea to support other vessels, and squadrons of fighters and Stealth bombers sat ready on the tarmac at al-Jaber base in Kuwait, Mr Clinton declined to say whether the United States could avoid any further airstrikes. The President said: "We have sought no confrontation with Saddam Hussein. My concern is that we limit Saddam Hussein's ability to threaten his neighbours, that

we do it with the no-fly zones and that we keep our pilots safe."

His comments came after an embarrassing delay for Washington after which the Kuwaiti Government finally agreed yesterday to allow thousands of additional American troops to be stationed on its territory.

The interruption in battle readiness from an ally America had saved from Saddam during the Gulf War had brought derision from Republicans the previous day, while Bob Dole, Mr Clinton's opponent in November, accused the White House yesterday of having a flawed policy.

"I am not certain what the policy is in Iraq," Mr Dole said. "I think now he needs to define more precisely what our goal is, what we intend to

do, why we are there, why we are spending money there, why we talk about sending 5,000 troops. And I do not believe he has communicated that yet."

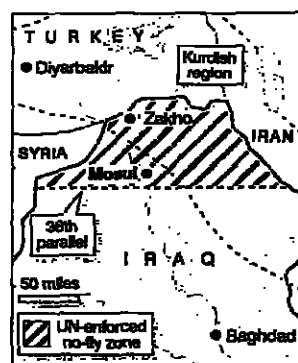
On Friday, it had been announced that 5,000 troops would be sent from Fort Hood, Texas. Two days later the Pentagon said the figure should have been 3,000, but William Perry, the Defence Secretary, during a diplomatic visit to the Gulf, had been told that permission for the deployment to Kuwait would require the authority of the emirate's national defence committee.

The Kuwaiti Government, emphasising repeatedly that there had been no hesitation in approval, finally agreed yesterday to the deployment. "There was unanimous approval of all of the arrange-

ments proposed by the United States to Kuwait that would preserve security and stability," Sheikh Saud Nasser al-Sabah, the Information Minister, said. "We would go to any extent to guarantee the security of Kuwait and to prevent the repetition of the 1990 Iraqi invasion."

Mr Perry, expected in London last night after his tour of the Gulf states and Turkey, appeared to have found little support in the Middle East for further airstrikes against Saddam. He had left Turkey without making any comment.

Saudi Arabia, America's most powerful Gulf ally, was said to have made clear that it did not back more attacks against Iraq or approve the further build-up of US military in the region.



Kurd aid workers fly to Guam

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ZAKHO, IRAQ

A FIRST group of 600 Kurds who fear reprisals for their work with American aid groups in northern Iraq yesterday left Turkey for the Pacific island of Guam, the Anadolu news agency reported. The agency added that another 1,475 Kurds had crossed into Iraq for possible later airlifting to Guam from the city of Diyarbakir.

Francis Ricciardone, the US Embassy's chief of mission in Turkey, told reporters in Diyarbakir that the Kurds would be on Guam for from two to three months before being taken to America, where many of them want sanctuary.

Guam, a US possession in the western Pacific, has remote military complexes where Kurds who opposed President Saddam Hussein of Iraq while working for US agencies can be safely debriefed. They fled northern Iraq after the Kurdistan Democratic Party made an alliance with Saddam and took control of the area after routing the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

The refugees crossed into Turkey on Sunday, but plans for them to fly out that night were disrupted because of a technical fault in the aircraft they were to use.

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AMERICA'S military build-up to deter President Saddam Hussein from further aggression is turning into a multi-billion-dollar operation.

The bill for the fuel alone needed to deploy the eight F17A Stealth fighters to Kuwait and to send B52s to the region, has already increased the overall cost by more than a billion dollars.

The non-stop 20-hour journey of eight Stealth fighters from Holloman air force base in New Mexico to Kuwait involved a dozen refuelling tankers, a mixture of KC135s from McConnell air force base in Kansas and KC10s from McGuire air force base in New Jersey, according to a spokesman for the United States Air Mobility Command in Illinois.

Paul Beaver, a defence expert with the Jane's group, said the average cost of a combat aircraft in flight was about \$15,000 (£10,000) an hour, excluding the pilot's salary. It costs \$10 million (£6.5 million) to train a Stealth fighter pilot.

The two deployments of B52s would have cost even more. The spokesman for the Air Mobility Command which operates all the tankers for mid-air refuelling, said the two B52s which flew non-stop from Guam in the Pacific to mount a cruise missile attack on Iraqi air defence systems before flying straight back to Guam, used up 1.5 million pounds of fuel. Far more tankers were needed for the B52 operation than for the trip by the Stealth fighters, the spokesman said.

The two B52s also fired 13 AGM86C cruise missiles, each costing \$1.2 million, according to the Pentagon.

Bob Dole, the US Republi-



can presidential nominee, in an interview on ABC's *Good Morning America* programme, ridiculed the use of million-dollar missiles to attack what he said were \$60,000 radars. "That's not very good economics," he said, adding that Iraq would apparently be able to repair the radars in three days.

The cost of operating a carrier battle group in the Gulf is \$1 million a day, a spokesman for the US Navy said, although this does not involve additional costs, because the ships and 11,000 naval personnel would be on operational duty elsewhere if they were not in the Gulf region.

However, the ships have so far fired a total of 31 Tomahawk cruise missiles at Iraqi targets, each costing \$600,000. Most of the cost of Operation Desert Strike, codename for the latest US mission against the Iraqi leader, is in addition to the annual bill for committing American military personnel and equipment to the



Deutch: CIA bill for Iraq is \$100 million

US Central Command region that covers southwest Asia. Before the current operation, funds requested for 1996 totalled more than \$490 million.

Now the Pentagon is to add to the overall bill by sending about 3,000 additional troops to Kuwait to take part in an exercise codenamed Intrinsic Action. A spokesman for the Pentagon was unable to give the cost of the deployment.

The arrival of a second carrier battle group in the Gulf from the Adriatic will also double the daily cost of the naval operation. However, the Tarawa Amphibious Readiness Group, which has been in the Gulf in the last few weeks, has now moved away to the South Pacific.

The campaign against Saddam does not only involve the Pentagon. The CIA, under director John Deutch, has also been engaged in building up an organisation in northern Iraq in the last five years to engineer the downfall of the Iraqi dictator. The estimated cost of the CIA operation since the Gulf War ended in 1991 is about \$100 million.

With the CIA's abrupt departure from the region last week, following the advance of Iraqi forces into Arbil, headquarters of the CIA-run organisation, the huge sums of money appear to have had meagre returns.

Two years ago the CIA installed a team of intelligence officers in four rented houses overlooking Arbil and filled it with communications systems and other equipment, to provide back-up for the Iraqi National Congress, then the main anti-Saddam group.

The congress spread anti-Saddam propaganda, using leaflets, books and radio and television broadcasts. However, it has not been involved in any significant military operations against Saddam.

Israel border alert as Syria moves troops from Beirut

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER AT TZIPOREN OUTPOST, ISRAELI-LEBANON BORDER

ANXIETY and tension were mounting yesterday along the troubled Israeli-Lebanon border as Israeli military commanders tried to interpret large-scale movements of Syrian troops based in Lebanon.

Ehud Barak, the former chief of staff and former Labour Foreign Minister, told Israeli radio he "did not understand" the movements, which have involved about 12,000 men of the 40,000-strong force. He warned Binayamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, to be cautious in his reaction.

According to Lebanese security sources, the thousands of Syrian soldiers have begun redeploying out of Beirut towards the Syrian border, due to a perceived threat of a sudden Israeli attack. Most of the heavily armed troops who have moved eastwards have taken up positions in the mountain range along the Syrian border where Syrian Sam-7 anti-aircraft missiles and anti-aircraft gun batteries are installed.

The tension has been exacerbated by Syria's blank refusal to restart peace talks stalled since February due to the refusal of Mr Netanyahu, subsequently elected in May,

to consider handing back the whole of the Golan Heights, occupied since 1967.

There has also been a threat by Hezbollah (the Party of God) to resume full-scale suicide attacks against Israeli troops occupying a Lebanese buffer zone.

Yesterday, one official source told Western reporters being conducted on a rare tour

about the mystery Syrian troop movements and Israel's military response dominated yesterday's Israeli press.

One Israeli defence source was quoted in a warning of the danger of a "limited conflict" being fought in the vicinity of Mount Hermon in the Golan Heights where Syrian military engineers have recently been observed digging wide-scale defensive positions.

According to the Israeli Army, the sensitivity of the military situation between Israel and Syria nearly led to the cancellation of yesterday's trip for the members of the Foreign Press Association which has been planned for weeks.

Journalists were asked to direct all questions about Syria to "the political echelon" and no senior officers could be quoted. The unexplained Syrian troop movements — seen by some Israeli officials as a dangerous gambit by Damascus to try to break the logjam in the peace process — began last month when the Syrians left a number of positions in the central Lebanese mountains in what Lebanese officials insisted was "a defensive redeployment".

There is a prospect of limited conflict in the area around Mount Hermon

of Israeli artillery and other military positions along the extensively mined border with Lebanon. "We are taking seriously enough what has happened to the Syrian troops in Lebanon and other areas. In the area under my control, we are looking and searching for the new locations."

For the second day in succession, heavily censored sto-

Bibles take a bashing in US hotels

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

NEARLY a quarter of hotel guests in the United States use the Bible that is traditionally left in bedside-table drawers. But not all heed the Eighth Commandment, because one in six good books goes missing during a normal year.

A survey of hotel guests found that Bible-reading, which 23 per cent of people said they did during their stays, was almost as high as the use of the hotel mini-bar (26 per cent).

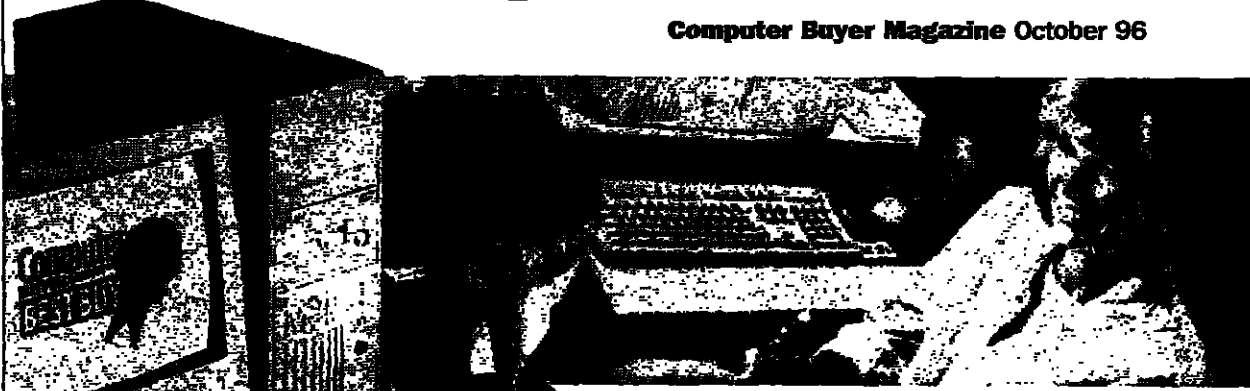
A member of the Gideons organisation, which places more than a million Bibles in American hotels a year, suggested that the reason so many vanished may be because readers became engrossed in them.

Only 43 per cent of guests who answered the Fodor's Travel Publications survey said that they ate the bedtime mint usually left on the pillow by the management. Some 31 per cent admitted taking home the hotel bathroom soap and bottled lotions, and 4 per cent said they stole towels.

One per cent admitted using hotels for affairs, but 59 per cent checked for clean sheets before going to bed.

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Child slave by West to appear

Sweat of millions Indian parents

Most French support Front idea

Killers sought

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Teresa in fall

Reward

Child slaves 'used by West Africans to appease spirits'

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousands of pre-teen girls are being kept as unpaid servants and sex slaves by West African voodoo priests to pay for the sins of their families against traditional gods and spirits.

According to a report published yesterday by Australia's Anti-Slavery Society, up to 35,000 virgin girls as young as eight in Ghana, Benin, Togo and Nigeria have been given to "fetish priests" who treat them like serfs and often rape them.

"Originally offered as human sacrifice to ensure success in war, these girls are the helpless victims of a traditional form of slavery in which they are known locally as 'fetish slaves'," the report said.

"The girls are offered as slaves in order to appease the gods and to atone for wrongs committed by their relatives, usually male relations," said the report *The Forgotten Girl-Slaves of West Africa*.

Most of the girl slaves have been found in Ghana's south-western regions where the voodoo practices originating in Benin take place alongside Christianity and Islam.

Paul Bravender-Coyle, the author of the report, was invited to Ghana by a group of charities to investigate the problem last year, and to highlight the need for Western funding to provide education and training for the slaves, known as *trokosi*.

He said that many of the

trokosi have two or three children by their priest masters, and are denied access to education so they are unable to fend for themselves when released from their "indenture" after between three and five years.

Unlike the radical Islamic Government of Sudan, which turns a blind eye to the enslavement of Christians, the Ghanaian Government has been anxious to stamp out child slavery. The children, invariably virgins, are offered at a shrine after a run of bad luck, disease, or a series of deaths in a clan. They are expected to stay with priests from the age of about eight up to 15 and sometimes much longer.

Valerie Sackey, the Lancaster-born personal assistant and adviser to President Rawlings of Ghana, said yesterday that the practice violated the constitutional rights of children. "But it is very difficult to stop. When people believe that they have offended their gods or their ancestor spirits, they will often turn to *trokosi* as a solution," she said.

Many former slaves have to remain with the priests after serving the time agreed by their families because they are cut off from any other means of survival. One 86-year-old woman quoted in the report said that she had been a slave her entire life.

Betty Akuffo-Amoaeng, ex-

ecutive secretary of Ghana's National Commission on Children, said yesterday that using excessive force to break the tradition would only drive it underground.

"We have to be careful to contain the problem within our own borders, or parents will simply take their children to neighbouring countries to give them to priests. Then there will be no chance of getting them back," she said.

Beliefs in traditional rituals and the spirit world permeate the highest levels of most West African societies, making it difficult to convince rural peasants to give up the *trokosi* practice.

President Rawlings recently told *The Times* that, if he wanted to get the truth out of high-ranking officials, he had found it was often useless to make them take an oath on the Bible. "But drag them to a shrine, and brother, they'll come clean," he said.

Ghana's more enlightened fetish priests have agreed to try to prevent families from handing over their daughters to atone for sins they fear they may have committed, and instead offering a goat.

Children's rights groups have offered funding for poor families to pay for goats, which are considered a better asset than a daughter, and are trying to raise money to educate the youngsters so they can earn a living if and when they are released.

□ **Kampala:** A five-day pan-African conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent national societies to discuss how best to cope with conflicts, natural disasters and the increasing number of refugees across the continent will open in the Ugandan capital next Monday.

"We have problems in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Liberia and Somalia and it's a million-dollar question as to what solution we shall have in place," Peter Oryema, secretary-general of the Uganda Red Cross, said yesterday. The conference would also consider how to reduce dependence on foreign aid. (AP)



Ellen DeGeneres, the star of ABC television's *Ellen* sitcom, who is said to be considering whether the character she plays should "come out" as a lesbian

Disney weighs risks of outing sitcom character as lesbian

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

DISNEY executives must decide if Middle America, usually held to be more conservative than the coastal conurbations, is ready for a leading television sitcom character to "come out" as a lesbian.

Ellen DeGeneres, the star of ABC television's *Ellen* show (which is shown on

Channel 4 in Britain), was said by her agent to be "trying to break new ground and do something that hasn't been done before on television" — namely, to present her popular character as homosexual.

ABC is owned by the Walt Disney group, traditionally a champion of family values,

and the programme is made by a Disney offshoot, Touchstone Productions. Disney is reluctant to be seen controlling a subsidiary but faces fallout if *Ellen* does turn gay.

In the programme, *Ellen* is a self-deprecating bookshop manageress who has a succession of unfruitful romances with men.

Killer accuses his apartheid security bosses

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN PRETORIA

EUGENE DE KOCK, a former police colonel convicted of multiple murder and other crimes, yesterday appealed for leniency, saying he was only following the orders of his apartheid masters when he assassinated black opponents of the Government.

It was the first time Colonel de Kock, who once described himself as apartheid's "most effective" assassin, had taken the stand in Pretoria's Supreme Court during the marathon 18-month trial of apartheid era death squads. His explosive testimony is expected to implicate several former apartheid security chiefs and politicians.

Dubbed "prime evil" by police colleagues, the 48-year-old former commander headed a notorious death squad based at Vlakplaas, near Pretoria, that hunted down black liberation fighters. He began testimony in mitigation of the life sentence he is facing after his conviction last month on 89 of 121 charges, including six murders, two of conspiracy to murder and more than 80 of fraud and gun-running.

Wearing a grey suit that reflected his grim demeanour, the colonel sat in the wooden dock, shoulders hunched, and peering towards the judge through thick-rimmed glasses and spoke softly as he told how the brutality of guerrilla warfare turned him into hardened killer.

He named several superiors who gave orders for his "dirty tricks" operations. At one stage he mentioned that P.W. Botha, the former President, knew about a raid in Lesotho, and his evidence could result in further trials.

Although the trial deals primarily with the colonel's criminal activities, he gave notice that by exposing the spectrum of their activities he intends to convince the court that he and his colleagues were driven by a mixture of right-wing doctrine and stress sustained during counter-insurgency and merely followed instructions from above.

Inside the packed courtroom white-haired men in khaki shorts huddled on benches alongside black men in sharp suits behind Sydney

Mufamadi, the Safety and Security Minister, and other government representatives. They listened spellbound as the colonel, speaking in Afrikaans, gave an intriguing insight into the psychological make-up of a state assassin.

He told how he was brought up in a religious household by a father who was a staunch supporter of the former ruling National Party and recalled how he was transformed into a brutal killer during his early career fighting in the bush war in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) where he learnt that "you shoot first and ask questions later".

Delving into the unconventional campaign against Swapo guerrillas in Namibia, where he used silenced weapons, he said that on his first operations he killed six members of the African National Congress, even though there were only two intended targets, and was decorated by a National Party minister afterwards.

De Kock, who once split a man's skull with a spade, on one notorious occasion sent him to dispose of the body of a suspect who died in police custody by blowing up the corpse.

Lawyers for de Kock, who had to take a short break for medication, claim he now suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. "At one stage I was too scared to go to sleep," he told Judge Willem van der Merwe. "I would have nightmares of fights."



De Kock boasted he was an effective killer

Sweat of millions pays Indian parents' debts

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA has at least 15 million child bonded labourers — "virtual slaves" — according to a study by Human Rights Watch published at the weekend. They are held in servitude to pay off parents' or guardians' debts of as little as \$30; bond masters pay around \$30 for them.

The report was published as India's donor community

began meeting in Tokyo yesterday. Human Rights Watch urged donors to ensure that their aid did not perpetuate child bonded labour. "Twenty years after the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976, became law in India, employers continue to purchase children as virtual slave labour in agriculture and a wide range of industries," it said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Most French 'support Front ideas'

Paris: Most French people — 51 per cent — share the extreme right-wing ideas of the National Front, according to an opinion poll published yesterday by the left-wing *Liberation* newspaper that will send shockwaves through the country's political class.

Killers sought

Brussels: International arrest warrants have been issued for two alleged assassins of André Cools, a former Belgian Socialist minister, in 1991, BRTN radio said. The Tunisian pair fled to Sicily. (Reuters)

Mayor killed

Ankara: Nurettin Özyurt, the Muslim mayor of Persembek, a Black Sea town, was shot dead by the owner of a pub he had closed for selling alcohol, the Anatolia news agency said. The assailant fled. (AFP)

Fatal jobs race

Bhubaneswar, India: Four youths competing for jobs as police constables died in eastern India after running in a five-mile race in midday temperatures of up to 104°F (40°C), officials said. (Reuters)

Teresa in fall

Calcutta: Mother Teresa suffered a minor injury to her head in a fall. Her condition was not serious, a Calcutta hospital said. She left hospital 11 days ago after treatment for heart problems. (Reuters)

Whitewater call for prostitute's diary

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE pillow talk that cost President Clinton his chief campaign strategist echoed through the White House yesterday as a prostitute's potentially damaging diaries were subpoenaed by prosecutors investigating the First Family.

Details of a journal kept by Sherry Rowlands of her year-long affair with Dick Morris, the presidential campaign guru, have been requested as part of further inquiries into the myriad scandals surrounding Mr Clinton and his wife, Hillary.

Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel on Whitewater, is said to be interested in a claim by the \$200-an-hour prostitute that she had been told Mrs Clinton was the catalyst behind the illegal gathering of FBI background files on hundreds of Republicans by White House aides.

According to *Newsweek*, Ms Rowlands and Mr Morris are expected to give evidence before Mr Starr, and it appears also that the strategist's records may have been subpoenaed. The demands by Mr Starr come less than a week after Mr Morris sent congressional investigators a sworn statement denying allegations by Ms Rowlands in which she claimed he had blamed the files affair on a "paranoid" Mrs Clinton. Mr Starr's move is a signal that the independent counsel is refusing to accept Mr Morris's statement and intends to resolve the emerging contradictions surrounding the affair conducted at the Jefferson Hotel in

Washington. The prostitute has also said that Mr Morris told her of his advice to the President to limit damage over Whitewater. He is said to have told Mr Clinton to distance himself from a First Lady who might be indicted.

The diary was reported yesterday to have been subpoenaed last week. Ms Rowlands has yet to surrender it, but her lawyer has indicated that she will co-operate.

In a June entry, serialised in *Star* magazine, Ms Rowlands said that the political consultant had specifically mentioned the files affair during one of their meetings.

"I asked him who was behind ordering the FBI files on Republicans in the Filagate scandal. He said, 'It was Hillary in 1993. She's a paranoid lady — she did it,'" Ms Rowlands wrote. "I said, 'Doesn't that create a lot of ripples?' He said, 'Yeah. The Hillary ringer.'"



Rowlands: her lawyer says she will co-operate

Bid for new UN chief intensifies

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE new session of the United Nations General Assembly starting today will be dominated by the search for a new Secretary-General who can rescue the organisation from oblivion.

Boutros Boutros Ghali is trying to cling to power with a second five-year spell despite his earlier pledge to serve only one term in office. But America has made clear that it will use its veto at the 15-nation Security Council to block Dr Boutros Ghali's re-election when his term expires at the end of the year, and the hunt is on for a successor.

The race began officially this month when Niger circulated a diplomatic note proposing its former Foreign Minister, Hamid Algabid. Although he is the Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Mr Algabid is given little chance at the UN — not least because he is said to speak only faltering English.

With no clear front-runner yet emerging, UN insiders calculate that the next Secretary-General will probably either be an African — since Africa is by convention due a second term — or a woman whose gender can trump geographical considerations.

Many are waiting for President Mandela of South Africa to tip his hand. A hero at the UN for his struggle against apartheid, he has the ability to act as kingmaker in choosing an African successor to Dr Boutros Ghali.

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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 1996

RK

Governor says City does not need euro

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday that the City of London will thrive whether Britain joins a single European currency or not.

Speaking at the launch of the Bank's second quarterly report on technical preparations for a single currency, the Governor said that, as with any major change, there are risks and opportunities. But he added: "There is no doubt that, provided people are prepared, as we will be, the opportunities far outweigh the risks whether Britain is in or out." He was responding to concerns expressed recently by British business that the City of London will lose its position as Europe's leading financial centre if Britain continues to opt out of the single currency. Some have speculated that thousands of jobs could be lost.

When pressed, Mr George said that it was, in reality, difficult to identify any real risks for the City. He noted that London's financial centre is larger than the other European centres put together and is renowned for its expertise and sophistication. He added: "The City is an international centre not just a European one. We provide the links between Tokyo and New York on a scale quite disproportionate to our size."

He noted that many European banks are still choosing to base large operations in London despite their assumption that Britain will continue to opt out of a single currency and that this must be proof that London will not suffer.

The main message of yesterday's new report *Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro* was that the financial community will be ready for the introduction of the single currency in 1999. Mr George said that efforts to gear up for trading the euro had intensified since the Bank's last technical report in May, partly because there was a realisation that a core of

European countries would, in all likelihood, proceed to a single currency.

But Mr George also took the opportunity yesterday to warn against any attempt to fudge the Maastricht economic convergence criteria. He said that shepherding some countries through the single currency door even if they had not met the criteria would be unacceptable creative accounting in his view.

His comments coincided with another broadside on the single currency issue from British business. Thirteen senior British businessmen wrote to *The Daily Telegraph* urging the Prime Minister to spell out the dangers of early entry into a monetary union. This was in answer to a letter in *The Financial Times* ten days ago, signed by 15 leading companies, that warned the Government against self-imposed exclusion from the debate on monetary union.

Mr George was also speaking just before today's key Franco-German economic meeting, which will consider efforts to cut budget deficits and other issues on the road to a single currency. There has been speculation in the financial markets of a secret deal to soften the Maastricht criteria to ensure that France qualifies, and yesterday Klaus Kinkel, Germany's Foreign Minister, was moved to deny such talk. He said that there was no question of any divergence from the convergence criteria and that rumours of such considerations were totally baseless.

The Franco-German meeting comes a day before France details its 1997 Budget, the year which will determine whether it meets the Maastricht criteria. The next focus for followers of the European debate will then be Friday, when an informal meeting of European finance ministers convenes in Dublin and is expected to concentrate on EMU-related issues.

Coping with euro, page 29



Dorling Kindersley pleased the City with a 37 per cent rise in full-year profits to £17.4 million on booming sales of illustrated reference books and CD-Roms. The company now plans its biggest single book project, an encyclopaedia of garden plants, after successes with dogs and cookery. Page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKETS	
FT-SE 100	3977.2 (+9.3)
Yield	3.91%
FT-SE All share	1801.01 (+4.25)
Nikkei	15,000.00 (+1.00)
New York	8873.29 (+34.77)
Dow Jones	8873.29 (+34.77)
S&P Composite	884.12 (+3.58)
US BONDS	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	5.87% (5.87%)
Yield	5.87% (5.87%)
COMMODITIES	
3-mth Interbank	5.75% (5.75%)
Life long gilt	107.00 (107.00)
Future (Dec)	107.00 (107.00)
CURRENCY	
New York	1.5567 (1.5555)
London	1.5568 (1.5544)
DM	2.3500 (2.3500)
FF	8.0049 (8.0188)
Sfr	1.2502 (1.2507)
Yen	171.82 (171.65)
S index	86.1 (86.2)
DOLLAR	
London	1.5105 (1.5140)
DM	5.1310 (5.1573)
FF	1.2390 (1.2438)
Yen	110.15 (110.48)
S index	87.2 (87.3)
Tokyo close Yen	110.32
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$21.75 (n/a)
GOLD	
London close	\$382.70 (\$383.05)
* denotes midday trading price	

Quick sale unlikely for Signet

By MARTIN BARROW

ATTEMPTS by Signet, the jewellery company formerly known as Ratner, to sell its UK retail business appear to have stalled.

The company said that discussions have taken place with a number of interested parties and were still continuing "with one potential purchaser". However, the company was unable to present concrete proposals to shareholders yesterday, disappointing investors who had hoped a deal was imminent.

Yesterday Signet, which also owns H Samuel, said losses were reduced to £6 million before tax from £21.3 million in the six months to August 3. Sales increased to £369.6 million from £344.9 million. Net debt stood at £306.1 million after a reduction of £36.8 million year-on-year.

Coping with euro, page 29

Independent bids in New Zealand

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

INDEPENDENT Newspapers, Ireland's largest media group, said that it would spend up to £164.2 million on a New Zealand publishing company, in an effort to broaden and develop its international composition.

Independent Press Communications Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tony O'Reilly's Independent newspaper group, offered NZ\$10.50 (£4.70) a share for Wilson & Horton, the Auckland-based newspaper and magazine company.

Wilson & Horton also holds a one-third share in the consortium that last year bought New Zealand's commercial radio stations. The bid is the biggest made by Independent. The company's last large-scale acquisition, in May 1995, was a 22 per cent holding in Wilson & Horton. Other

companies linked to Doctor O'Reilly control a further 22 per cent of the New Zealand group.

Analysts said that the move to gain full control of the company was typical of Doctor O'Reilly, but that the timing of the bid had taken the market by surprise.

Michael Walls, the chairman of IPCL, said that Wilson & Horton's main attraction was its newspaper business. "The major focus, if you look at our group worldwide and at the business of Wilson & Horton, is on the printed medium. We think it's got a long way to go and is far from being a spent medium."

The offer is conditional on the approval of Independent Newspapers shareholders, who will vote at an extraordinary meeting on October 4.

Tempus, page 28

Mirror's chief nets £1m

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MIRROR GROUP, the media company, revealed yesterday that David Montgomery, chief executive, had netted £1.1 million by cashing in 550,000 shares in the company.

Mr Montgomery made a profit of £608,000 by converting options granted at 61p and then selling at 213p. He also sold a further 150,000 of his existing shares at the same price.

The dealings were made on Friday and notified to the market yesterday. Mr Montgomery is understood to have made the share disposals to raise funds to meet moving costs.

Mr Montgomery, who was paid a total of £473,000 last year, still holds 580,000 options granted at 61p and a further 164,000 at 213p. He also continues to own 51,000 ordinary shares.

Reed approach for Blenheim

By JASON NISSE

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch media group, has made a bid approach to Blenheim Group, valuing the exhibitions concern at around £480 million. However Blenheim has given strong hints that it may reject the offer as too low.

Blenheim announced yesterday that it had received an approach "at a level which the board has previously rejected". The news forced Blenheim shares, which in recent months have been as high as 470p and as low as 340p, up 52½p to 420p.

Reed has been identified as the bidder and a price of 480p a share, valuing the group at around £480 million, has emerged from the negotiations. However, Neville Buch, Blenheim's chairman, is understood to want as much as 550p a share.

In addition, there was some confusion over Blenheim's

Pennington, page 27

BSE crisis costs Dalgety over £15m

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DALGETY, the petfood giant that owns Spillers and Felix, said yesterday that the BSE crisis had cost it more than £15 million.

The company made a pre-tax profit, excluding one-off items, of £101.9 million, 20 per cent below last year's £127.1 million. Including one-off items, profits were £89.6 million in the year ended June 30, compared with £93.7 million a year earlier.

Richard Clothier, chief executive, said: "This year has been exceptionally challenging for Dalgety. A steep rise in raw material costs and the BSE crisis seriously affected four of our five businesses. In addition, UK petfoods performed below expectations due to lower sales volumes."

He said that he remained confident of improved growth "subject to the uncertain effect of BSE on petfood exports and cattle feed".

The market for petfoods in the UK has continued to shrink and Spillers has lost market share, particularly in dogfood, he said. On the other

hand, Felix catfood, which Dalgety acquired from Quaker Oats last year, became the leading canned catfood in the UK, with 26 per cent of the market.

Catfood contamination in The Netherlands that killed 330 cats cost Dalgety £5 million, he said, and its market share there has shrunk. A Dutch supplier was blamed for the incident.

Other one-off charges included £52.7 million for reorganising Quaker Petfoods, closing four factories

and cutting jobs in Europe. A further £10.9 million was taken for revaluing property.

Mr Clothier said that improving dividend cover was a priority for the group.

The final dividend of 13.5p per share means the full-year dividend is maintained at 22p, but it is not quite covered. Earnings per share stayed at 20.4p. Mr Clothier added: "I would feel much more comfortable when we achieve a cover of say 1.5 times."

Tempus, page 28



Clothier: challenging year

RAM slumps to £6m loss

By JON ASHWORTH

ROTHSCHILD Asset Management (RAM), the fund management arm of NM Rothschild, crashed to a pre-tax loss of £6.1 million in the year to March 31.

Trading losses accounted for about half the loss, which came in the period leading up to the death in July of Rothschild, head of RAM's London office. The rest of the deficit was attributed to heavy investment in computers, and to reorganisational costs.

RAM said trading returned to profit in the first five

months of the current financial year. The fund management group made a profit of £3.6 million in the year to March 31, 1994, then dipped to a loss of £471,000 in 1995, according to figures filed at Companies House. Some £3 million has been spent bringing RAM's various offices together under a new umbrella company, RAM BV, based in The Netherlands, and run by Baron Eric de Rothschild, part of the French side of the clan. Offices in London, Guernsey, the Isle of Man,

Paris, Australia, Switzerland, New York and Hong Kong, were formerly run as a loose confederation of units.

RAM said no decision had been taken on whether to replace Rothschild. Peter Troughton, brought in as chief executive in London last year, has assumed day-to-day running of the group. RAM has £28 billion under management worldwide. Of £18 billion under management in the UK, \$14 billion is held for institutional investors and \$4 billion for private investors.

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Commercial Operating profit up 19% with improved services and benefit of investment.



Personnel Operating profit up 37% as employers in specialist sectors make increased use of contract staff.

Results for the year ended 30 June 1996

Group operating profit grew by 20% on a total revenue increase of 19%, an excellent result in an uncertain European economic environment. All three core activities contributed to this result.

Group pre-tax profits rose by 20% to £132m, and earnings per share increased by 19% to 22.3p. The final dividend will be increased by almost 16% to 8.1p, in line with our commitment to improving shareholder returns.

In addition to sales and business growth, good financial control and strong cash generation has been maintained.

The year also included the creation of a new senior management level; Business Sector Directors, whose role is to support the planned and expected growth of the Group as a whole, and to ensure continued improvement both in profit margins and quality of service to our customers.

Organic growth across all three core activities has been supplemented by infill and development acquisitions in Commercial.

In Continental Europe, there were important new contracts in high-value, non-food services to key retailers, with new operations being started in Paris, Marseilles and Bordeaux. Hays Chemical Distribution continued its excellent growth, albeit at a reduced pace in the second half.

In our Commercial businesses there has been substantial growth, particularly with the Document Exchange continuing its expansion into new markets. Hays Information Management maintained its excellent progress, both in the UK and overseas. Hays Express Services continued its growth with progress into new business sectors.

Personnel continues to build on last year's excellent progress. The use of contract staff continues to grow in the accounting, building, banking and IT areas. Enhanced IT support enabled a substantial improvement in operating margins.

We continue to maintain strong positions in our chosen fields by investing both in new opportunities and quality services that add real value for our customers. Hays plc faces the future with confidence.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS for the year ended 30 June 1996

	1995	1996	% Change
Profit before tax	£110.3m	£132.0m	+20
Earnings per ordinary share	18.7p	22.3p	+19
Net dividend per ordinary share	7.0p	8.1p	+16



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Analysts fear payout cut at English China Clays

By PAUL DURMAN

FEARS that English China Clays may have to cut its dividend grew stronger yesterday as the company reported weak profits and the first sketchy conclusions from its continuing strategic review.

The poor figures prompted Standard & Poor's, the credit-rating agency, to consider downgrading the A+ and A-1 ratings that it gives ECC's debt.

Analysts were disappointed that ECC was unable to give more details of the changes on which it is working with the help of McKinsey, the management consultants. ECC hopes to cut £30 million from the annual costs of running its kaolin business, supplier of coatings to the paper industry.

However, it could not spell out the costs of implementing these cuts.

ECC is maintaining its interim dividend at 5.5p a share, but it is making no promises about the final. Charles Pick, analyst at Panmure Gordon, is among those expecting a cut. He believes the full-year payment may fall to 11p, against 16.7p last year.

Sharply falling sales to the paper industry, escalating costs and an £18.6 million write-down of the value of businesses in Europe, the Pacific and Brazil cut ECC's pre-tax profits in the first half to just £5.7 million. In the same period last year it made £55.3 million.

After tax, this produced a

loss to shareholders of £2.7 million, compared with a profit of £37.5 million last year. The loss per share was 0.86p (earnings of 12.27p).

Although badly hit by stock run-downs by paper manufacturers, the company also ran up significant additional costs because of manufacturing problems at its kaolin operation in Georgia. Profits at ECC Americas/Pacific fell from £19.5 million to £12.1 million, while the contribution from ECC Europe tumbled from £33.2 million to £21.5 million.

Calgon, the speciality chemicals business, lost several million pounds on a mammoth global contract to supply Scott Paper after making a mess of final negotiations.

Calgon slipped to profits of £1 million (£6.6 million).

Dennis Rediker, ECC chief executive, has installed new management at Calgon, who, he believes, will deliver a "dramatic change" in its results over the next 18 months.

Mr Pick said some of ECC's problems are self-inflicted: "They put the final dividend up in March even though the paper industry was already affected by a fairly savage downturn. It was only a few months ago that they were pinning their hopes on the Scott Paper contract."

ECC said second-half trading is so far not showing any marked improvement.

Tempus, page 28

Morgan Grenfell exposure 'limited'

By JON ASHWORTH

MORGAN GRENFELL Asset Management has admitted that investors across its range of funds were exposed to the trading activities of Peter Young, the suspended fund manager. But the group says exposure was limited to holders of personal equity plans (PEPs), who have been given the option to switch into other funds, or withdraw their investments entirely.

Pep-holders in the Morgan Grenfell managed portfolio potentially had up to 8 to 10 per cent of their holdings invested in the European Growth Trust. The company said an internal investigation into Mr Young's activities was expected to last four to six weeks. A separate inquiry is being conducted by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation. Questions remain over the future of Keith Percy, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, Glyn Owen, chief investment officer, and Mike Wheatley, compliance director of fund management business.

Mr Young remains on suspension while investigations continue. He was suspended after the discovery that he had built secret holdings of unlisted European technology stocks through a web of Luxembourg-based companies. The Serious Fraud Office is understood to be monitoring the situation, and has yet to decide on whether to mount an inquiry.

Deutsche Bank, which owns Morgan Grenfell, has injected £180 million to cover potential exposure to the unlisted securities. The bank is considering moving responsibility for its UK unit trust business from London to Frankfurt.

Liffe takes on new meaning with merger

By OLIVER AUGUST



Robin Woodhead, left, and Jack Wigglesworth

"LIFFE gets physical," said the slogan on the red, yellow and blue badges handed out to futures traders in London yesterday morning.

The badges symbolised the absorption of the London Commodity Exchange, where Robin Woodhead is chief executive, into the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, or Liffe, of which Jack Wigglesworth is chairman.

Since yesterday, pork bellies and FT-SE contracts are traded on the same floor. The merger, clinched this year, rescued the small 40-year-old Commodity Exchange from a likely US takeover. Participants hope that the move will take advantage of the dismantling of farm price controls across Europe, which may stimulate trading in grains.

To the amusement of many, the commodity men had to put on lurid jackets, colour-coded to identify the firm they work for. These garments are standard issue in the frantic open outcry pits at Liffe, which is based on its famous American counterpart.

The first day's trading was uninterrupted and smooth, while overall volume reached a moderate 6,828 lots. At the end of trade, Reuters reported: "Liffe cocoa futures retraced from the day's highs on profit-taking but prices still ended slightly higher and traders said the upside potential remained intact."

But nostalgia for the slower pace of the old commodities floor was undiminished. In the old coffee ring, "business could have been done blindfolded", sighed one Commodities Exchange veteran. "Everyone knows everyone else's grandparents."

Greenhills loses chosen advisers

By JASON NISSE

BRIAN COPSEY, who owns 10 per cent of Greenhills, the troubled leisure group, vowed to put the company on an even keel yesterday after Neill Clerk Capital, its nominated financial advisers, resigned following a Stock Exchange investigation.

Mr Copsey, formerly finance director of Gestemer, said that new advisers should be announced within a couple of days. This, he said, would be followed by the reverse takeover of Browns Club, the central London celebrity nightclub.

Neill Clerk resigned yesterday after Greenhills was forced to admit it had not announced three pieces of information, deemed by the Stock Exchange to be price sensitive, after the Exchange

investigated the company. Greenhills shares, which trade on the Alternative Investment Market, have been suspended.

The information Greenhills omitted to pass on was that a company controlled by John Gilbert, a director of the group, fitted out the company's Thunder Road restaurant in the West End of London; a contract to distribute Russian Dawn vodka would not be proceeding; and Tussauds Group has pulled out of Greenhills's venture to develop a Hollywood-themed restaurant called Dream Factory.

Staff and creditors, owed more than £1 million, say they have not been paid by Greenhills for work done on Thunder Road. Mr Copsey said genuine claims would be paid.

Directors' pay rises exceed 12%

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE annual rise in the average pay package awarded to top directors is back in double figures this year, according to research published today.

An average increase of 12.6 per cent was awarded to the highest-paid directors at the UK's largest public companies, compared with 9.1 per cent last year and 22.2 per cent in 1994, according to the Income Data Services. It found the average total pay package was £684,671.

The IDS Management Pay Review analysed data on the highest-paid directors' pay, benefits and bonuses contained in the most recent annual reports of 96 of the top 100 companies in the stock market. The analysis showed:

the fixed elements of remuneration - increased by an average 7.1 per cent to an average level of £448,801.

Annual bonus levels rose to an average of £243,157 compared with £147,019 in the previous survey.

Total emoluments increased by more than 40 per cent at five companies and by more than 20 per cent at a further 16, while 10 company directors saw their package shrink.

Eleven top directors received a total pay package of more than £1 million. IDS said most companies had failed to follow the advice of the Greenbury committee on executive pay to reduce employment contracts to one year.

Results read well for multimedia publisher

Dorling excels in tough market

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

DORLING Kindersley Holdings, the multimedia publishing company, yesterday unveiled a 37 per cent rise in full-year profits to £17.4 million as sales of the company's illustrated reference books and CD-Roms continue to boom.

But Peter Kindersley, chairman and chief executive, said the US multimedia market was proving tough, with some competitors slashing prices as they exit the market. Mr Kindersley, who founded the company 20 years ago, added that the company was "relaxed" about the US market, believing that a more stable market will emerge in due course, allowing retailers to restore margins.

The results, which were ahead of

expectations, pleased the City and shares in the company climbed 13.5p to close at 545p.

Overall turnover rose 26 per cent to £174 million, while the total dividend was increased 15 per cent to 4.5p. The operating profit margin rose from 8.8 per cent to 9.8 per cent. Dorling said that more than 75 per cent of total turnover came from international operations, with turnover in the US increasing 40 per cent to £67 million.

The company's adult division increased turnover 14 per cent to £83 million with bestsellers including *Mary Berry's Complete Cookbook* and *Dr Fogle's Encyclopedia Of The Dog*, which both notched up sales of more than £1 million. This year's publishing schedule

includes the *Royal Horticultural Society's A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants*, described as the company's biggest-ever single book project. The children's division lifted turnover 31 per cent, including good sales of new titles *Factopedia* and *Children Just Like Me*, although five of the seven best-selling titles were from the company's backlist.

DK multimedia sales rose 62 per cent, with total English language retail sales exceeding 800,000 - double total sales in 1995. DK now produces 20 titles with 11 new titles added last year. The company said it is also producing one title for Intel as part of the computer company's launch of its new pentium processor in January. A final dividend of 3p is payable on December 3.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

'Vulnerable' offered free BT conversion

BT WILL convert two million old-style telephones for free, it was announced yesterday. The six-month offer means that customers will not be asked to pay the £29.38 normally charged for replacing the old wiring with a plug and socket. The conversion will be carried out for free at any time for any customer defined as "vulnerable". This will include people with impaired hearing or vision, a physical or mobility disability, or those who are chronically sick or disabled.

Jean Gaffin, the chairman of the Advisory Committee on Telecommunications for Disabled and Elderly People (Dielat Ofel), the industry regulator, said: "This is great news for almost two million BT customers and it is something we have been pressing for for years. It will especially benefit elderly people wanting connection to community alarm systems and more appropriate telephones who were previously deterred by the cost of conversion."

Retail stocks rise in US

RETAIL inventories in America jumped at the sharpest rate in 1 1/2 years during July, the Commerce Department reported yesterday, boosting stocks of unsold goods on the shelves of all types of businesses. Total business inventories rose 0.4 per cent in July to a seasonally adjusted \$1 trillion after being revised to show no change in June. Previously, the department reported that June inventories had risen 0.1 per cent. Recent reports have shown some moderation in the pace of consumer spending at start of the second half, which analysts said probably played a role in the higher July inventories.

Dinkie Heel advances

DINKIE HEEL, the manufacturer of components and materials for the shoe industry, achieved a rise in pre-tax profits to £379,000 from £315,000 in the half-year to June 30 despite difficult trading conditions in the retail sector. Earnings were 2.15p a share (1.83p). The interim dividend, which will be paid on December 2, is increased to 0.6p a share from 0.5p. There was a 10 per cent rise in sales to £4.09 million, with a maiden £251,000 contribution from Davies & Co (Kettering), acquired in May. Continued progress is expected in the second half of the year.

Bad debts higher

BAD DEBTS and business failures in Britain are running 10 per cent higher than one year ago, according to Trade Indemnity, the credit insurer. The company's quarterly business review suggests sales growth is slower than in the period from 1993 to 1995 and that increased sales are being achieved at the expense of profits. This is the result of weakening of demand during 1995, which caused an accumulation of unsold goods, Trade Indemnity said. The survey estimates that although house prices have risen 5 per cent this year they are 20 per cent below their peak in 1989.

Nike profits run ahead

NIKE, the world's biggest maker of athletic footwear, achieved a 24 per cent rise in earnings to \$226.1 million, or \$1.53 a share, in the first quarter. It further pleased Wall Street investors with news of a share split, its second in as many years. Revenues jumped 34 per cent to \$2.28 billion from \$1.70 billion last year. In the first quarter, US athletic footwear and apparel revenues totalled \$1.35 billion, up 39 per cent from a year ago. International athletic footwear and apparel revenues rose 35 per cent to \$780.9 million, Nike said.

Sharpe & Fisher boost

SHARPE & FISHER, the building supplies company based in the west of England, welcomed signs of an improvement in housing transactions as it reported a rise in operating profits to £1.96 million from £1.8 million for the six months to June 30. At the pre-tax level profits eased to £1.54 million from £1.65 million, held back by re-organisation costs. Earnings were 4.9p a share (5.3p). The interim dividend rises to 1.8p from 1.7p, due on November 15. Turnover rose to £33.7 million from £30.8 million previously. The company acquired Goodlands, with eight branches in the south west, for £2.87 million.

Bayer to restructure

BAYER, the German chemicals group, yesterday announced a corporate restructuring that it hopes will simplify chains of command and free the board to focus more on long-term strategy. The restructuring will organize Bayer's 21 business groups into five segments from the previous six: polymers, chemicals, healthcare, agriculture and Agfa, its photographic and imaging division. The chemicals division has been formed by bringing the organics and industrial products divisions under one roof. The company emphasised that the move is not aimed at job-shedding, but at streamlining decision-making.

Raytheon wins contract

AMERICA'S Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has awarded a contract potentially worth nearly \$1 billion to a team of companies led by Raytheon to upgrade air traffic control systems. Raytheon won the contract over Boeing and Lockheed Martin. The contract is to build the standard terminal automation replacement system (Stars) to replace air traffic control computers with a next-generation system for FAA and Department of Defence facilities across America. The systems are used in the airspace within about 50 miles of airports.

Whittard brews success

WHITTARD OF CHELSEA, the tea and coffee retailer, reported an increase in profits to £1.8 million before tax from £1.3 million for the year to May 31. The company, which floated on the Alternative Investment Market in June, said maiden earnings were 0.7p a share. Sales were 39 per cent at £21.75 million. Four new shops have opened since June, lifting the total number of outlets in Britain to 82. Directors intend to pay interim and final dividends for the year to the end of May 1997 in April 1997 and October 1997 respectively.

US utilities to merge in \$4.8bn deal

OHIO EDISON and Centert Energy, two of America's largest electricity utilities, have agreed to merge, forming a new holding company, in a stock-for-stock deal valued at \$4.8 billion.

The merger, which the utilities hope to complete by the end of 1997, would create the nation's 11th largest investor-owned electricity system. The deal comes amid a wave of consolidation in the industry. Ohio Edison serves parts of Ohio and its Pennsylvania Power subsidiary operates in western Pennsylvania. Centert's Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and Toledo Edison serve northern Ohio.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.06	1.90
Austria Sch	17.55	16.05
Belgium Fr	51.26	47.08
Canada C\$	2.207	2.077
Cyprus Cyp£	0.758	0.703
Denmark Kr	9.88	8.83
Finland Mk	6.82	7.01
France Fr	6.41	7.78
Germany DM	2.61	2.30
Greece Dr	336	305
Hong Kong \$	12.89	11.68
Iceland Iskr	116	85
India Rs	0.022	0.024
Italy Lira	2484	2229
Japan Yen	182.00	170.00
Malta Mls	0.622	0.547
Netherlands Gld	2.788	2.558
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.16
Norman £	10.82	9.92
Portugal Esc	251.50	233.00
S Korea Wd	137	127
Spain Ptas	304.00	167.00
Sweden Kr	11.00	10.20
Switzerland Fr	2.08	1.88
Turkey Lira	141250	130250
USA \$	1.653	1.523

Rates for small denomination bank notes are supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Laporte hurt by sell-offs

LAPORTE, the company that owns the rights to the Guinness name, has been hurt by the sell-off of its shares on the London Stock Exchange.

The company's shares fell 10p to 1.10p after the announcement that the Guinness name would be sold to a consortium of investors.

The consortium, which includes the Guinness family, is expected to buy the name for £100 million.

The Guinness family, which has owned the name since 1958, is expected to receive a 10 per cent stake in the new company.

The new company is expected to be formed by the end of the year.

□ OFT deliberates BA's merger that isn't □ One man's view of EMU □ Blenheim needs a touch of reality

Open skies, closed deals

THE quasi-merger between British Airways and American Airlines is one of those areas where strict interpretation of the rules might be less fair than a blurred fudge, because airlines have always been a business where national pride takes precedence over commercial logic.

There is no rational reason why every single member of the European Community, for example, should have its own national carrier. Any sensible scheme drawn up *ab initio* to cover the Continent would require three or four airlines, whatever number might be needed to create sufficient competition to prevent the misuse of monopoly power. This is, after all, what emerged in the United States, where amalgamations and other consolidation have created an industry that is at long last profitable again.

The insistence of every sovereign state on maintaining its own air fleet means, predictably, that no one makes any money. Regular injections of state cash keep the planes in the air, this being another area where the Treaty of Rome, and those articles dealing with unfair competition, is generally ignored.

BA's problem is that the British Government takes the Treaty rather more seriously than its partners — on this subject as on many others, one might add.

Hence the cost-cutting, and the job losses expected from Robert Ayling's Step Change project. This column took Mr Ayling, chief executive at British Airways, to task a week ago for the damage he was doing to morale in the pilots' lounge, sparking a strong positive response from several BA employees. Not surprisingly, few wanted to leave their names. His popularity is unlikely to be enhanced by further bad news on the jobs front this week.

And hence the merger that dare not speak its name. American is unhappy, quite rightly, with so-called "code-sharing," where passengers may be switched from one airline to another half-way through their journey even though they thought they have booked with one alone. But this is the deal available, and American has grown to accept it.

BA for its part is going to have to give up some of its slots at Heathrow with whatever good grace Mr Ayling can muster — but not too many, which will be a long way from a proper "open skies" policy. The question being

considered by the Office of Fair Trading is whether such an artificial arrangement provides enough new competition on Heathrow routes to exert downward pressure on prices.

American Airlines, despite having a ready alternative bride in Air France, has indicated a willingness to delay the wedding until the matter has been tested at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. BA is keen to avoid this. No one enjoys such long-winded affairs, but there are times when they are necessary. This looks like one of them. Fortunately, the indications are the OFT is also taking this view.

Hays takes the slow road

THE business world is convulsed over the question of the single currency, we are assured, and over what percentage of business leaders, by the usual dubious or self-serving statistics, want Britain to be part of Economic and Monetary Union. It is easy to forget that large numbers of them are agnostics.



Life goes on, imports and exports flow from one country to another, whatever the politicians decide. One such is Ronnie Frost at Hays Group. The man who admits to shipping five million cartons of yoghurt across from the Continent each day, even though he loathes the stuff, might be thought to have strong views on the effect on cross-border trade, but he insists EMU will make no difference whatever Britain does.

Instead Mr Frost is upset about another little cosy business cartel, the one that shut him out of taking over Christian Salvesen this summer. That company was the ideal next leg up for a business that has grown five-fold since coming to the market in

1989, but he was frustrated by family members with a 38 per cent holding.

Hays bounced back within weeks with another significant deal, which had typically been negotiated in parallel with Salvesen. The premium rating the shares enjoy, selling on almost 20 times' this year's profits, says that the market is expecting expansion to continue, but Mr Frost may now be forced to take a more indirect route. The areas his company is in, distribution and similar industrial services, are still highly fragmented on the Continent, but this brings its own dangers.

Acquiring market share piecemeal will take time for a management which, Mr Frost admits, was until recently spending 90 per cent of its time running the existing businesses. Then there are cultural factors — few can match the bloody-mindedness of the French long-distance lorry driver, for example. Mr Frost says, picking his words carefully, that he is not looking at any individual quoted company. But the market is aware that he is not blocked from

returning to Salvesen — or any constituent part, should that company, as expected, one day be broken up.

Lost in the land of Oz

"I DON'T think we're in Kansas any more, Toto," said Dorothy at the start of the Yellow Brick Road. Perhaps Stephen Sweeney, the sensible managing director of Blenheim, should turn to Neville Buch, his chairman, and say: "We're not City darlings any more, Neville."

One cannot help but wonder whether Mr Buch and the two other directors who control a quarter of Blenheim's shares have noticed the tornado that has flattened their company over the past three years. In early 1993 the shares stood at nearly £6. Then came a combination of bad results, overblown expectations and revelations about how the group was run, and the shares fell to a low of 179p. The possibility that anyone would offer as much as 480p looked like the quaintest fantasy.

To have rejected an offer at that price from United News & Media looked pretty daft subsequently, as Blenheim's share price collapsed to under 350p. Now Reed Elsevier, which had always been hovering in the background, is offering close to 480p again. But Buch and friends are thought to be pressing for something more like 550p.

Given that the French business is the key to Blenheim, and Reed employs a strong team of former Blenheim managers in France, then Reed is well able to value Blenheim and run it as a subsidiary should the incumbents take their money and move to pastures new. If Blenheim rejects Reed's approach, Reed should make an aggressive offer at about 400p. At which point, 480p will look a generous price indeed.

Two Dogs fight

WHEN Two Dogs arrived on these shores, neither of the market leaders in cider could see much future in alcoholic lemonade. Two years later, and Two Dogs has floored one of them, Matthew Clark. The other, HP Bulmer, is off to Australia to help the brand to expand there. One hopes Peter Aikens, Clark's chief executive and now hanging on to his job by his fingernails, is able to appreciate the irony.

Hays chief rules out bid for rival

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

RONNIE FROST, chairman of Hays, yesterday ruled out another takeover bid for a rival quoted distribution company but said the business services group would concentrate on expanding its commercial division and specialised logistics operations (See Pennington, this page).

Mr Frost added that he expected growth to be organic and through acquisitions ranging in size up to £100 million. He said that the company had enjoyed a good start to the year and was under no pressure to find major acquisitions to ensure future growth.

Hays made a £1.14 billion offer for Christian Salvesen, the business services group, but withdrew last month when it failed to win the support of the Salvesen board. Hays unveiled a 20 per cent rise in full-year profits to £132 million. Turnover rose 19 per cent to £966 million, while the total dividend was increased 16 per cent to 8.1p.

The results were in line with expectations, but the market

marked down shares 2.5p from their record high, closing yesterday at 478.5p.

Hays recently bought ICS Corporation for £65 million. Mr Frost predicted the pre-9am delivery business would contribute £15 million to profits in the next three years.

Profits in the distribution division rose 11 per cent to £61 million. The company said it was looking to expand its European operations, but had recently won new contracts with Waitrose and Scottish & Newcastle.

Profits in the commercial division rose 19 per cent to £39 million, with courier business being helped by the postal strike.

Profits in the personnel division rose 37 per cent to £37 million helped by the increased trend towards using temporary labour. A final dividend of 5.5p is payable on November 29.

Hays announced the appointment of John Cole, former chief executive officer of Mayne Nickless Europe, as an executive director.

Laporte hurt by sell-offs

By PAUL DURMAN

LAPORTE, the chemicals company that has replaced its senior management team since Jim Leng became chief executive last year, made a £23.9 million loss on businesses sold during the first half.

The losses cut interim pre-tax profits to £36.4 million, down from £67 million last year. If the loss on disposal is ignored, profits fell by a more modest 10 per cent to £60.3 million.

Mr Leng's disposal programme continued yesterday with the sale of businesses in Thailand, Brazil and France for a total of £7.8 million.

Mr Leng said although Laporte was a fine business, it had achieved earnings per share growth of only 1.2 per cent since 1990.

Profits from continuing operations were steady at £60.5 million, although margins fell back to 11.4 per cent (12.8 per cent). The interim dividend is maintained at 8.5p.

Top spot for Allied Irish Banks

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

ALLIED Irish Banks is regarded as the best bank by small businesses, while TSB is rated the worst, according to a survey by the Forum of Private Business.

Of the big four high street banks, Lloyds is best, followed by Midland, NatWest and Barclays. The survey said all the big four had improved slightly since 1994, although Barclays had again attracted the most negative responses from its business customers.

The report, based on the views of more than 10,000 businesses, pointed out that firms' perceptions of their banks were much more positive where the relationship was closer and better informed.

The benefits of a closer relationship included lower interest margins over the base rate, lower levels of collateral, fewer bank mistakes, lower transaction charges and less desire to change bank.

Guinness includes UK staff in works council

GUINNESS, the drinks group, yesterday announced it will include representatives from its British workforce in its new European works council (Alasdair Murray writes).

Around 10,000 of its 14,000 European workforce are based in the UK.

The move to establish a European employee forum comes just ahead of the legal deadline next Sunday for the establishment of voluntary arrangements and the implementation of the European Works Council Directive. A total of 44 employee

representatives will serve on the forum including 12 from the UK and nine each from Ireland and Spain.

Greg Hunt, human resources director of Guinness's United Distillers operations, welcomed the agreement.

Brian Revell, national secretary for the food, drink and tobacco section of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "The inclusion of representatives for the UK marks another significant step in demonstrating the importance of European-wide employee consultation."

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STOCK MARKET

OLIVER AUGUST

Positive mood boosts banks and insurers

WALL STREET continued upwards and the FT-SE edged forward cautiously after last Friday's buoyant response to US economic data that suggested steady American interest rates. The FT-SE 100 index closed at 3,977.2, up 9.3 points, having recorded a new intraday peak of 3,980.8.

A broad range of sectors benefited from the positive mood including banks, insurers and buildings. The defence and aerospace sectors remained bullish about the uncertain situation in the Gulf.

The banking sector was stirred by the confidence in HSBC, which increased from £11.89 to £12.05. Lloyds TSB benefited from a positive James Capel report and finished 5 1/2 p firm at 396 1/2. Barclays was down 1 p to 94 1/2, while the Royal Bank of Scotland moved up 1 p to 490. Natwest rose from 678 p to 687 1/2 p.

Of the insurance companies, General Accident was the biggest winner. With an increase of 1 1/2 p to 667 1/2 p it was one of the FT-SE's best performing shares. Commercial Union rose 2 1/2 p to 607 p, and Royal Sun, from 398 p to 402 p.

In the building sector, Amey made a particular impact with shares up 1 1/2 p to 367 p after doubling profits. At RMC, which is reporting interim on Thursday, news may not be quite as spectacular, but dealers still have high hopes as the shares rose to £11.95, up 1 1/2 p. Other building stocks followed their example. Amec rose to 102 p from 98 p, Bellway was up 3 p to 343 p and Jarvis moved from 91 1/2 p to 93 1/2 p, while troubled Costain slipped yet from 60 p to 59 p.

Redrow managed to move up from 133 p to 134 p, after the publication of downbeat results. Dealers are putting some faith in the words of Steve Morgan, the chairman, who promised a resumption of profit growth.

The defence and aerospace sectors were getting maximum mileage out of the new quarrel with President Saddam Hussein in the Gulf. TI Group closed at 578 1/2 p, up 12 p, and GEC ended the day at 395 p, up 6 p. Dealers are speculating that with the US presidential elections coming closer the conflict may be hotting up.

British Aerospace, up 3 p to £10.65, is continuing its post-Farnborough rise, after an



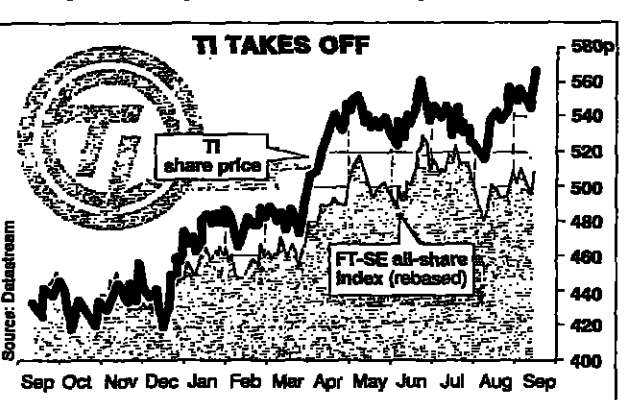
The building sector, in general, saw share prices rise

announcement that the group will not press for an increase in its 20 per cent stake in Airbus Industrie even though its assets could prove to be worth relatively more than those of its European partners, according to a recent press report.

Airbus this year announced plans to become a limited company. Industry observers

are saying Bae has accepted that any increase in its Airbus stake would be politically unacceptable in Germany and France. Among the alternatives to be explored is the possibility that Bae might receive relatively higher payments for the work it does for Airbus.

Shares in Cable and Wireless were 7 1/2 p better at 448 1/2 p as analysts turned positive on



TI share price

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

Share price

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

Share price

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

Share price

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

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Share price

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

Share price

FT-SE all-share index (rebased)

Share price

tor, Oxford Molecular announced software licensing agreements with Hoffmann-La Roche and Abbott Laboratories. The licences are the first commercial installations of R3 Discovery, a software program that transforms the corporation's standard relational database system into a high-performance, chemical-structure search engine. The shares rose from 321 1/2 p to 324 p.

Glaxo Wellcome also saw a price increase from 955 p to 962 1/2 p in connection with reports about new research showing promising results from trials of a new AIDS drug, Vertex, the US drugs company, is developing a new protease inhibitor in partnership with Glaxo. The new drug, which the partners have said may be available for AIDS treatment in 1998, is designed to be used in combination with more traditional treatments of AIDS.

On the takeover front, Bleimann climbed 5 1/2 p to 420 p after confirmation of a new bid approach, with Reed Elsevier the likely predator. Danko rose 1 p to 697 1/2 p, still encouraged by the growth prospects of last week's photocopy deal with Kodak.

In foods, Nestlé takeover speculation offset the expected gloomy results from Dalgety, 2 p better at 329 p.

Encouraging trading statements benefited Morgan Crucible at 460 p, up 10 1/2 p, and Dorking Kindersley at 544 p, up 12 1/2 p. Protean tumbled 80 1/2 p to 169 p after a profits warning caused by problems at a German subsidiary.

Advice to start profit-taking over the weekend clipped 5 p from Railtrack at 283 p. Telewest Communications, down 1 p to 135 p, said its recommended offer for the B ordinary shares of Cable London has been declared wholly unconditional.

GILT-EDGED: UK gilts ended the day unchanged from Friday, with opening gains eroded on the back of a weaker tone in bonds and Treasuries. Most traders were waiting for today's gilt auction announcement. The December long gilt futures ended steady at 107 1/2 p.

CI NEW YORK: US stocks had solid gains at mid-session as Wall Street showed signs of renewed confidence in the outlook for equities. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 34.77 points to 5,873.29.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5873.29 (+34.77)
S&P Composite 684.12 (+3.58)

Tokyo:
Nikkei average Closed
Hang Seng 11967.90 (+148.80)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 568.17 (+2.12)
Sydney:
AD 2267.8 (+15.5)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2629.87 (+33.91)
Singapore:
Straits 2154.49 (+28.22)

Brussels:
General 9991.45 (+20.31)
Paris:
CAC-40 2086.19 (+5.82)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 783.00 (+3.80)

London:
FT 30 2899.6 (+3.1)
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FTSE Mid 250 4462.0 (+4.7)

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THE valedictory dividend rise with which Andrew Teare said goodbye to English China Clays last year looks increasingly foolhardy as does his successor's decision to increase the final last March. ECC now looks to be in severe danger of following BTR in "rebasing" its dividend.

The company, which makes coatings for the paper industry, is once more in the grip of the paper cycle. Five years of restructuring under Mr Teare has left ECC with more than half its business dependent on paper. The solution, it seems, is another strategic review and yet more cost-cutting.

Unfortunately, ECC is not more capable of getting it wrong. On top of manufacturing problems in the US kaolin business (last reorganised in 1995), it has managed to lose money on a hugely valuable contract to

supply chemicals to Scott Paper. Bizarrely, the local management of Calgon, the chemicals business, tied up the final negotiations in such a way that the global contract became loss-making.

ECC seems determined to stick with Calgon, at least for the time being. The bigger worry is that the benefits of any changes to the main minerals business may take a long time to show through.

The dividend yield, hovering around 10 per cent, and the shares, down 10 p to a new low of 216 1/2 p yesterday, are already warning investors to expect a dividend cut.

ECC's shares could one day start to look attractive as a recovery play. The company may even attract some takeover interest. But until the costs of the forthcoming shake-up become clearer, they are best avoided.

Dalgety

THE effects of "mad cow" disease reached right down to the dog bowl according to disappointing results from Dalgety, which put the price of BSE at £15.3 million in the full year.

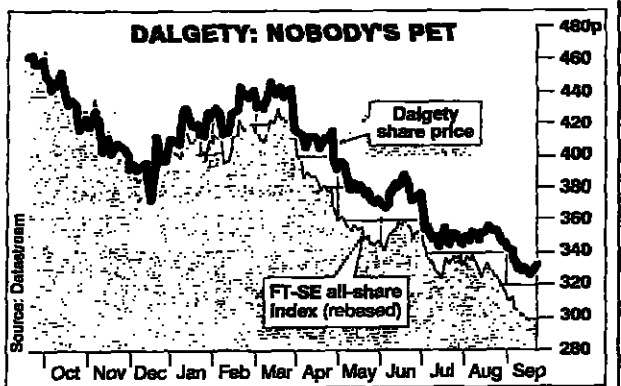
The crisis hurt most of Dalgety's businesses. Its ingredients subsidiary was hit for £1.5 million in lost sales as people stopped eating sausages and burgers. In agriculture, reformulating feed for pigs and poultry cost £3.6 million, while lost sales of feed were estimated at £700,000. The ban on UK beef exports meant that Dalgety had to switch its sourcing for petfoods abroad, costing it £9.5 million. Added to that is the £5 million cost of sorting out a crisis in The Netherlands after petfood supplied by Dalgety killed 330 cats. For-

tunately for the reputation of British food suppliers, a Dutch supplier to Dalgety was eventually found to be the culprit.

It would be far too easy to blame factors outside its control for all of Dalgety's woes, however. Unimpressive underlying profits make it look as if Dalgety, did indeed overpay for Quaker

petfoods last year at £442 million. Moreover, Dalgety's declining share of the UK dogfood market was due to Spillers giving up ground to Mars' Pedigree Chum.

Dalgety's shares have been on the slide for most of the year. Many of the problems have yet to be resolved: until they are, the shares are best avoided.



Morgan Crucible

MORGAN Crucible has been transformed from a UK-reliant company into a business spanning the globe. Four years ago, the group's plans for overseas expansion were met with derision in the City. Now, Bruce Farmer, managing director, has delivered results to convince his critics. The reasons are threefold. Firstly, its sales are spread almost evenly between its three core divisions and its acquisitions have all been in ceramics, carbon and specialty materials.

Second, its geographical mix has left it with 88 per cent of sales overseas. While this still heavily favours North America, it is now exposed to every major market.

Third, its heavy spending on R&D and capital expenditure is bearing fruit. Twenty per cent of sales are generated from products that did not exist three years ago.

All that remains is for its markets to recover. Analysts

expect to see this in 1997. At 460p, its shares are on a ratio of 18.3 times — not much different from the other companies in its sector. Bruce Farmer has been vindicated.

Independent Newspapers

INDEPENDENT Newspapers has wrong-footed analysts who expected the Irish company's next move to be for regional newspapers in the United Kingdom. Instead, the target is Wilson & Horton, the New Zealand publisher in which Independent already has an effective 22.38 per cent interest.

This is the Irish Republic's second largest corporate deal, behind Smurfit's £660 million purchase of France's Cellulose du Pin, which puts Independent's ambitions into perspective. If this opening bid succeeds it will cost Independent £144.2 million, which compares with its own market capitalisation of £147.0 million.

O'Reilly is therefore already very comfortable with the pricing power which comes with market dominance. Wilson & Horton is not considered to be a particularly dynamic company and O'Reilly must be confident that he can push margins up throughout its businesses with only minimum adjustments.

COMMODITIES

ICE-ICE (London & Milan)

CRUDE OIL (\$/bbl FOB)

Brent Physical 22.45 -1.20
Brent 15 day (Nov) 22.45 -1.05
Brent 15 day (Dec) 22.45 -1.00
WTI Intermediate (Nov) 22.45 -1.00
WTI Intermediate (Dec) 22.45 -1.00

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (average delivery)
Oct 22.45 -1.20
Nov 22.45 -1.05
Dec 22.45 -1.00

ROBUSTA COFFEE (\$)

Jan 14.15-14.25
Mar 14.15-14.25
May 14.15-14.25
Jul 14.15-14.25
Sep 14.15-14.25

WHITE SUGAR (\$/cwt)

Nov 33.00-33.10
Dec 33.00-33.10
Jan 33.00-33.10
Feb 33.00-33.10
Mar 33.00-33.10

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

Average livestock prices at representative markets on September 13

Cattle 98.25
Sheep 98.25
Pigs 98.25
Calves 98.25
Hens 98.25
Turkeys 98.25
Ducks 98.25
Goats 98.25
Rabbits 98.25
Poultry 98.25
Fish 98.25
Shellfish 98.25
Meat 98.25
Livestock 98.25
Meat 98.25
Livestock 98.

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

A family book for Kindersley

TO HELP to cut costs, Peter Kindersley, chairman and chief executive of Dorling Kindersley, recruited his son and daughter-in-law to help to compile *Children Like Me*, the publishing company's best-selling title this year. Kindersley Jr, aka Barnabas, took the photographs, while Anabel, his wife, supplied the text. "He's much cheaper you see," explains Kindersley Sr. "But Barnabas complained all the time, particularly when he was arrested in China over a dispute with a taxi driver who drove away with their camera equipment." His wife managed to find an interpreter, who negotiated a large payment for his freedom.

Tercentenarians

A DAY of wassail for members of The Tercentenarians, that club open to businesses whose companies date back at least 300 years. Eight members, including Christopher Hoare, the banker, and Richard Durnell of the building company that dates from 1591, will meet today for the club's 28th annual meeting. Bryan Toye, chairman of Toye Kenning & Spencer and this year's host, will introduce members to Florrie Doyle, the only person now to make tassels and ornaments by hand for a Chancellor's robe, who arrived at the company aged 16 in 1935. "The only trouble is her time clock," whispers Toye. "It dates back to the old days, when she came in at six."



"Let's make an exhibition of ourselves"

Tax haven estate

ANYONE looking for a bolt hole on the Isle of Man before the next elections, could do worse than the Ballantraugh Estate. The tax haven's largest estate ever to come on the market was once home to Daniel McDonald, the inventor of the Danette automatic record player changing device, and founder of BSR, the electronics empire. Priced at £3.5 million through Knight Frank, the 950-acre estate includes a mansion house restored to pristine condition during the 1980s by Dr McDonald.

Brought to book

FOUR solicitors from Ashurst Morris Crisp felt the firm arm of the law in two different countries this weekend. To raise money for St John Ambulance by travelling as far as possible from the Tower of London in 24 hours, the team enlisted the City of London Police to bundle them into the back of a van and drive them to Bishopsgate. Eighteen hours later, they arrived in Washington. Outside the White House with a bottle of bubbly, the team were set upon by an officer from the Alcohol Investigations Bureau, who instructed them on America's draconian drinking laws.

NUMBER Six Bishopsgate, former home to Barings, is now occupied by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, while its headquarters are being built on Great Winchester Street. So who will be the brave new sitting ducks, sorry tenants, when DMG moves out in two years?

MORAG PRESTON



The Bank of England can take a positive lead in guiding the City of London through what will be a major change as the euro comes into being

George reassures worriers on coping with the euro

Bank of England Governor believes that in or out of a single currency the City will thrive, says Janet Bush

WE are not accustomed to thinking of Eddie George as a knight in shining armour, questing heroically in defence of his country. But with our political leaders sitting not on trusty steeds but on the fence as far as Europe is concerned, the Bank of England Governor is one of very few public figures clearly articulating some of the risks for Britain.

Mr George yesterday launched an effective broadside on two fronts. He demolished concerns in some sections of British business that the City will lose its position as Europe's pre-eminent financial centre if Britain fails to join a single currency.

He told a press conference to launch the Bank's second quarterly report on preparations for a single currency yesterday that there were risks and opportunities for London whether in or out of a single currency. On closer questioning, he admitted that it was rather difficult to identify risks to the City.

But Mr George also used the occasion to express his concern that countries such as France and Germany would press ahead with forming a single currency by the 1999 deadline in spite of the fact that the economic background remained "unpromising".

As suspicions grow that the Maastricht criteria will be fudged to allow France to join a single currency, he said political strife and economic instability would follow and that Britain should not expose itself to such heightened risks.

His list of some of the risks of forming a single currency without "substantive convergence" included difficulties in agreeing on a single monetary policy; the creation of areas of persistently high unemployment on one hand and areas of excessive inflationary growth on the other; and the need for enormous fiscal transfers from some regions to others.

The Governor said he would



Eddie George would disapprove of creative accounting

disapprove of creative accounting to qualify for a single currency. He would regard "shepherding some people through the door even if they haven't converged their economies properly" as creative accounting.

He said his concerns were shared by fellow central bankers serving on the European Monetary Institute, but they have not been expressed as forcefully in public. It is natural, of course, that the Governor from a "probably pre-out", as one official put it, is more free to express scepticism than even independent central bankers from countries that regard themselves as definite "ins".

It is ironic that Mr George may be one of the most honest voices on these issues, but is most unlikely to get a vote when the substantive decisions

on the shape of Europe are finally made if Britain continues to exercise its opt-out.

But the Bank can take a firm and positive lead, whether Britain is "in" or "out", in guiding the City of London through what will be a major change as the euro comes into being. Mr George said yesterday that he believed that a core of countries would go ahead to form a single currency in 1999, whatever the economic problems, because of the political determination of Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac.

Because of this realisation, preparations for the coming of the euro in the City had intensified noticeably since the first technical report by the Bank in May. Whatever our politicians eventually decide, Mr George is now confident that Britain will be ready to

use the euro "at the wholesale level, in the payments system and across markets, by the beginning of 1999".

This sense of confidence goes some way to answering critics who have charged over the months that because of the obvious political ambiguities that have spawned a sense of unreality the Bank has been slow in preparing the commercial and financial community for the euro.

The Governor yesterday also repelled a threatened attack on the status of the City of London. He decried attempts by French and German banks to prevent equal access to Target, the new euro payments and settlements system, to those countries that remain outside the first wave of entrants to the single currency. The French and Germans have been arguing that "outs", expected to include Britain, should not have access to intraday credit from the European Central Bank (ECB) through the system.

In yesterday's report, the Bank said: "Any attempt to introduce differential terms for 'outs' compared with 'ins' would be discriminatory and be likely to contravene both the single market legislation and EU competition law."

Mr George expressed disappointment that constructive discussions in the European Monetary Institute were being threatened for the first time by jostling for national interests and said attempts at discrimination would be vigorously opposed by the Bank.

He was even more effective in deflating those who would try to wrest business away from the City. It just won't work, he said. Whether in or out of a single currency, the City will thrive.

On the narrow subject of differences over Target, banks

could still trade liquidity in euros by borrowing from each other rather than the ECB. Spurred on by obvious irritation with this issue, officials are already talking about the Bank leading the way in designing a secondary market in euros in London. Just as when the huge Eurobond market sprang up in London when traders were looking for a market outside US regulation, so new "offshore" markets in euros could burgeon in London, a new and highly lucrative form of income.

But Mr George said that Target was not a show-stopping issue for London and suggested that its importance had been blown up because nobody could prove any negative implications for the City from the single currency.

It is a huge vote of confidence in the expertise of the City that a plethora of specialist associations representing different market segments have done the substantial technical work on preparing for the euro. British experts have also given substantial direct advice to the European Commission.

Mr George reassured the worriers very simply: "The euro is just a bigger Deutschmark. We have seemed to do perfectly satisfactorily handling the mark, just as we have the dollar and the yen. I am sure that the City will cope."

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On the narrow subject of differences over Target, banks

BUSINESS LETTERS

Time for co-operative approach to devising a national strategy on housing

From David Hopkinson
Sir, Joe Dwyer, the chairman of George Wimpey, shows clearly that the supply of land is at the heart of the provision of adequate and affordable housing in this country (Land supply is key to a controlled housing recovery, Business News, September 7).

It is not a matter, however, of simply taking the Government's estimates of the number of extra homes needed over the next 20 years and requiring that the correct area of development land is released. The planning system

exists to try to reconcile competing demands for protecting open land, for helping to ensure that local housing need is met, for trying to guide development on to suitable urban sites, for minimising the need to travel long distances, to bring back into use empty properties and to cater for the national demand for housing.

In some cases these aims may be irreconcilable, but in all cases there is the need for a greater level of mutual understanding of the genuine concerns of those who promote

development and those who seek to control it.

It would be all too easy for the growing debate about the location of new housing to be reduced to the battle between the rapacious developer and the "Nimby" protectionist.

The only losers in such a one-dimensional conflict would be those who genuinely need housing and those areas that can benefit from the boost to the local economy that housing investment can bring.

At the local level, the house development industry is proving itself adept at entering into

partnerships while the planning system can be flexible and innovative in encouraging such beneficial developments.

The challenge now is to bring such a co-operative approach to devising a national strategy for housing — a task not best left to government alone.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOPKINSON
(Vice-Chairman),
National Housing and Town Planning Council,
14-18 Old Street,
EC1.

Minimum wage worry

From Ms Ruth Lea
Sir, I was intrigued by your headline "Small firms favour minimum wage" (Business News, September 9) — not least of all because this robust conclusion did not seem to be robustly supported by the data quoted in the accompanying article.

With only 24 per cent of respondents "strongly" in favour of a minimum wage, and a further 35 per cent only "tending" to support it, there did not appear to be the

overwhelming endorsement of the minimum wage implied by the headline. Moreover, while "more than a quarter" of respondents backed a minimum wage set at more than £4 an hour, presumably a solid majority did not.

This strikes me as a fairly robust rejection of a range of very widely discussed possibilities for the level of the minimum wage. I worry, too, about the ready dismissal of nearly a quarter of respondents who, reading between the lines, felt their businesses would suffer if the minimum

wage were to be introduced. A quarter is significant, especially if the damage leads to lost jobs (which is only too likely).

Recent research into our membership, many of whom run small and medium-sized businesses, showed a very high level of concern about the negative impact on business and jobs of a minimum wage. They most certainly did not "favour the minimum wage".

Yours sincerely,
RUTH LEA
(Head of the Policy Unit),
Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1.

Loves Labour, is lost

From Mrs Sylvia Murphy
Sir, I note with interest that the chairman of Arjo Wiggins Appleton is backing Labour (The Times, September 4).

Sadly, as those who own AWA shares will appreciate, this amounts to the kiss of death.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA MURPHY,
The Orchard,
Pond Road,
Hook Heath,
Woking, Surrey.



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Wall St cheap at the price

OVER the past 18 months, I have discovered an excellent answer to anyone who asks my advice about the raging bull on Wall Street. My first comment is that any financial pundit who declares that an economy or a stock market are in a "golden age", is almost certainly wrong. My second comment is that the American economy and stock market is in a golden age.

So much for investment advice. Now for the economics. My two remarks are not, in fact, as much at odds as they appear. By definition, great secular changes in economic and social conditions do not happen very often; so people who claim to spot them are usually wrong. Until the industrial revolution, great changes used to happen about every 500 years. Given the acceleration of technological and social change since then, once or at most twice in a working lifetime now seems about right.

Furthermore, everything depends on timing: markets may already have fully discounted an economic transformation by the time the pundits have become aware of it. This is why people so often lose money by following self-evident advice of the form "buy into Asia because that is where the growth is".

But how does all this theorising apply to the markets today? In the short-term, shares may be overbought and due for another correction. The trigger for such a correction might well be a small increase in US interest rates after the meeting of the US Federal Reserve Board next Tuesday. Unlike the suddenly euphoric markets, I still expect an early Fed tightening, despite the fairly benign inflation figures published last Friday. But allowing for some temporary turbulence, the bulls should remain firmly in charge, even after interest rates start to rise.

This is a statement that most investment professionals consider ridiculous. The conventional wisdom is that share prices always follow interest rates. But what the experts forget is that long periods sometimes occur when the underlying trend in share prices has nothing to do with interest rates or

the economic cycle. Shares respond instead to great structural changes whose impact must be measured in decades, not months or even years. The question now is whether we are living through such a period.

Last month, a brilliant attempt to unravel these questions landed on my desk: a paper called *Stocks and Bonds, a Secular Study* by Brian Reading, published by Lombard Street Research in London. Through a detailed and entertaining examination of financial history and economic statistics, Mr Reading shows that market cycles can be divided into two very different types of movement. Short cycles, which typically last two to five years, are closely related to interest rates. But superimposed on these, there are far longer and more powerful trends. These seem to be governed by technological and social phenomena, above all the battle over income distribution that causes inflation.

SINCE World War Two, there have been three such great thrusts. The two decades from 1948 to 1968 were a golden age for investors: US share prices rose 8 per cent annually in real terms and the ratio of share prices to GDP increased 2.5 times. The period of social conflict from 1968 to 1982 saw an equally decisive bear trend: share prices fell 7 per cent per year in real terms and the ratio of prices to GDP fell by half. After 1982 another golden age began: share prices have risen 10 per cent annually since then. The ratio of equity values to GDP is now 1.5 times higher than it was in 1948. But assuming a real economic growth rate of 2.5 per cent from now on, share prices could double, in real terms, over the next ten years and still be below their peak level of 1968, relative to GDP.

I don't think Wall Street will double or anything like — and neither does Mr Reading, for interesting reasons connected with demographics. But do not be swayed by conventional pundits who say that Wall Street is "grossly overvalued". Beg, borrow or steal a copy of Mr Reading's paper instead.

Only one airline offers an afterno On departure from London Gatwick to New York

Continental is the only airline with a second flight to New York from London Gatwick, timed to allow you to do a full morning's work in the office before you depart. And as a BusinessFirst flyer you can select a complimentary chauffeur driven car* or relax in First Class on the Gatwick Express or Thameslink to whisk you to the airport. Contact your travel agent or Continental on 0800 747800.

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Continental Airlines

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■ OPERA 1

A fine new staging of *Don Giovanni* for Welsh National Opera is jeopardised by untidy conducting



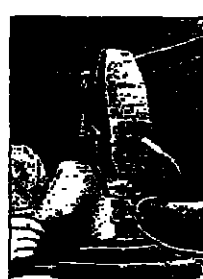
■ OPERA 2

... while at Covent Garden Amanda Roocroft takes a little time to make her mark as Mimi

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ POP

In Dublin for the *In the City* festival Billy Bragg showed his lyric gifts to be undimmed



■ TOMORROW

Can Radio 3, 50 years old this month, learn the lessons of its own history?

OPERA: The conductor rules over *Don Giovanni*; plus a lively start to a *Bohème* season

Shouting down a desperate Don

In recent years reactions to opera productions have all too often been along the lines of "wonderful music, pity about the staging". Over the last week that trend has certainly been bucked: first the sentimental, fuzzy-edged conducting of Jonathan Miller's *Traviata* at the Coliseum, and now Carlo Rizzi's frankly impossible reading of *Don Giovanni* for the opening of the Welsh National Opera's new season in Cardiff. It is good to be reminded that conductors are ultimately and decisively in charge of any opera performance (however bizarre a director's fantasies), but sad to be reminded so negatively.

Rizzi's *Giovanni* was hard, brash, driven, untidy, wood-enly phrased, ungraced and undecorated. Brisk Mozart may be the order of the day, but "authentic" tempos with a modern band are very dangerous, and the orchestra could often hardly get the notes out, let alone make any musical

sense of them. His *presto* impossible for the first-act finale resulted in complete incoherence, and poor Ottavio's *Il mio tesoro* was in danger of simply falling apart. The soloists, constantly pushed along, resorted for the most part to singing very loudly indeed, even in the recitatives: this was a shouted *Giovanni*, devoid of nuance and musical interest.

A great pity, because Katie Mitchell's production — her first opera in the wake of much stunning work at the RSC and National — was extremely interesting. As designed by Rae Smith, the action seemed to be set in one of the less salubrious quarters of Naples. The period was postwar Neo-Realism. There was a lot of God about: Fra Angelico's *Orvieto Christ* in *Majesty* figured prominently; two Piero Della Francesca Madon-

nas came and went; hooded monks with blazing torches dispatched Giovanni to hell.

There were a lot of suitcases — everyone in transit. There was violence — shotguns aplenty. Zerlina got a nasty black eye in the course of near-rape, and Masetto sported vivid lacerations after his beating-up. Giovanni may have presided over his nightmarish party in drag, but he was also shown emerging dish-evelled from a brothel. These were details in a production that maintained strong narrative line — the first essential, many would say — and looked very handsome in Paule Constable's darksome lighting. Mitchell's vision was absorbing, provocative and adult, and I look forward to experiencing it again, preferably with a more sympathetic conductor in charge.

Restricted by the straitjacket of Rizzi's four-square direction, the singers were hardly able to give of their best. Catrin Wyn Davies at least managed a phrase or two in her winsome portrayal of Zerlina, and I greatly admired Cara O'Sullivan's spirited, accurate Donna Anna — if only she had been given a little musical room. Alwyn Mellor, pushed dangerously towards shrillness, could sing Elvira much more expressively.

The protagonist, Davide Damiani, was oddly anonymous, only really coming to life when impersonating Leporello, which is a little late in the evening. Arwel Huw Morgan's sparky Leporello, got up as Lenin, found little relish in his bad behaviour. I wish the stage-door keeper had reminded Gwyn Hughes Jones that it was Mozart on Saturday, not *Forza del destino*. I have never heard so loud an Ottavio. Well, at least he wasn't a wimp.

RODNEY MILNES

Don Giovanni
New Theatre,
Cardiff

All change in Bohemia

FOR the start of the new season, the last under Jeremy Isaacs's leadership and the last in the present house, Covent Garden has gone bohemian. Over the next month a quantity of different Rodolfs and Mimis, together with their friends, take the stage in *Bohème*, culminating in October with the arrival of the lovers of the moment, Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu.

The opening night brought a number of Royal Opera debuts and the first Mimi of Amanda Roocroft. She did not begin at all brightly and *Mi chiamano Mimi* was oddly anonymous. It could have been any soprano telling of Mimi's attic life and the voice seemed to have put on too much weight for Puccini's frail seamstress. But parts of *Bohème* are thickly scored and Roocroft made her new substantiality tell in Act III, especially in the exchanges with Marcello. By the final act she was in command of the part, colouring her memories of times past and love that slipped away as death approaches. She is likely to go further



Amanda Roocroft, getting into her stride as Mimi

under Mimi's skin when her Rodolfo, Luis Lima, is in better voice. No announcement was made, but Lima, who knows this role backwards, sounded out of vocal sorts. In a young cast Lima, despite his enduringly agreeable personality and readiness to scamp about the stage, was a bohemian uncle rather than one of the lads. The Colline and

Schaunard were both making their first Covent Garden appearance. Ildebrando D'Arcangelo has a bass almost as opulent as his name and put it to excellent use in the coat aria. Paul Whelan as the musician, Schaunard, does not lack volume either but uses it too relentlessly. The third debutante, Elizabeth Futral, made the strongest impression, notably in

her Act II Waltz Song while Roocroft was still finding her way. She fitted in snugly alongside William Shimell's shaggy sympathetic Marcello. At the Café Momus together they came close to pushing the rest of the cast off stage. But that could change.

John Copley was back to supervise his original production, fast approaching its quarter-century. It is now a good deal livelier and better than last season, although life in Act I is still murky even by the standards of those short of a few candles.

Sir Charles Mackerras had to withdraw from conducting to allow time for recovery from a shoulder operation. Christian Badea took his place, yet another debut. Once over a tough first act he showed himself a true Puccinian and, with Roocroft growing in confidence, started to wring the emotions. The prospect of a totally different team also taking the boards this week is likely to be a sharp competitive spur all round.

JOHN HIGGINS

La Bohème
Covent Garden

Catrin Wyn Davies (Zerlina) and Davide Damiani (Don Giovanni) in Cardiff

Agit-pop
icon turns
fatherly

THIS year's *In the City* music biz extravaganza in Dublin drew to a close with a hectic itinerary that included the welcome return of Billy Bragg in a stuffed Mean Fiddler, and the following night a prestige headlining gig in the plush Olympia by local heroes Whipping Boy.

Bragg has only recently emerged from a prolonged hibernation from the music industry, forced upon him, he tells us, by appendicitis and the birth of his son.

It is clear, both from his extended monologues on the subject between songs and from the new songs themselves (such as *Brickbat*), that fatherhood had a profound effect on his world view, causing the agit-pop icon to redefine his relationship with

POP

Billy Bragg
Mean Fiddler
Whipping Boy
Olympia Theatre,
Dublin

socialism on more personal, less ideological terms — what he calls on his single *Upfield* "a socialism of the heart".

Armed only with a guitar, classic songs and a winning sense of humour, Bragg effortlessly juggles his tripartite role as folk singer, pop star and stand-up comedian. There was a warmth engendered in the audience.

Unlike Whipping Boy, who tried to break the door down rather than use the key. Their intense, fractured melodramas — one part grubby realism, one part unashamed romanticism — do hide a serrated beauty, and when they hit their stride (as they did on *Tripped* and the glorious *Twinkle*) it is easy to see why they have so many fans.

But despite the addition of a string section on some songs, they went through some very lacklustre patches. The workman-like band desperately needed inspiration from their leader, but Ferghal McKee's flat vocals and Bono-esque pouncing around was no help. That said, the new songs sounded on first hearing to be as good as anything on the acclaimed *Heartworm* LP.

NICK KELLY

MUSIC: Innovation at the Vale of Glamorgan Festival; plus the Hallé revisited in its controversial new home

Fresh in from the Baltic

As Cardiff Bay's dreary and aspiring wasteland continues its long wait for rebirth, its Victorian Baltic House caught an echo from far back in a former incarnation. Across the road, the Coal Exchange was reverberating with the very latest in Baltic music: the Vale of Glamorgan

Festival of Living Composers has this year turned to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, heralding London's Baltic Arts Festival next month.

With the six pianists of Piano Circus humming away all evening on six amplified keyboards, could anyone really have told that this was music from the Baltic states? One characteristic of almost every composer I have heard has been a resolution to reject any processes which are merely cerebral or merely nostalgic, while eagerly assimilating into their own language a wide cross-fertilisation of ideas now filtering into their brave new world.

The Estonian composer Erkki-Sven Tüür is both enfant terrible and deeply serious, self-aware craftsman. The iconoclastic energy of his rock

band days still charges an ear which can be seduced as much by the choral writing of the country's great mentor Arvo Pärt as by the stringency of American minimalism. Those familiar with Tüür's new album, *Crystallisation*, will have recognised the fascination with the radiation of energy from a single note, and the tension created by the collision of polarised rhythms and pitches in his new *Transmission*, a festival commission. One high note, pulsating on a single keyboard, blurs into two, clusters into three, four — until a vast cross-etching of complex rhythmic resonance is built up. It then descends in

pitch, a waterfall of register and motion, before a brisk rhythm resumes the ear to 12-tone language.

Tüür's contemporary, Rein Rannap, received two performances of his new *Merging Lanes*, a rhapsodic fusion of minimalism and virtuosic quasi-improvisatory writing.

The following evening, in a concert of music for string orchestra and choir in All Saints Church, Barry, Tüür's 1993 *Action: Passion: Illusion* received its UK premiere. Originally written for conductor Tomu Kaljuste and his Tallinn orchestra, its three meticulously composed movements, as intensely rhythmic

and as vigorous in their artifice as a Baroque suite, were conducted by him and played, a little uneasily, by Sinfonia 21. This London band clearly also had inadequate rehearsal time for the Latvian composer Peteris Vasks's Symphony for Strings, *Strimmen*. Yet its three continuous movements revealed the technical virtuosity and emotional integrity of this distinctive Baltic voice.

From Lithuania came Bronius Kutavicius and the UK premiere of *The Western Gates* for choir, orchestra and organ. This Siabur Mater setting is the last part of a cycle, *The Gates of Jerusalem*, and forms its apotheosis: a hymn with fragments of Lithuanian folksong lamentation intruding over quiet solo plainsong.

HILARY FINCH

Manchester's unraisable roof

Gerald Larner gives the Bridgewater Hall a second chance

Manchester doesn't need Les Invalides. So while Berlioz's *Grande Messe des Morts* sounded a little out of place in the Bridgewater Hall on Sunday — magnificent performance though it was — we could take comfort in the thought that the right place for that uniquely inspired score would be the wrong place for just about anything else.

There is probably no other major work as precisely tailored to the dimensions and traditions of one particular building. Anything which would be lost in a vastly reverberant space, such as melody shaped for its own sake, is left out.

There are melodic lines, obviously, but they are inflected for the setting — twisting round the walls, curving under the ceiling — just as so many of the harmonies are designed for their hostile intent or, at the other extreme, for their celestial propensity to hang in space.

The Bridgewater Hall, whatever assessment is made of it in the end, is too good to respond with total sympathy to Berlioz's atmospheric devices. Some of the major dramatic sensations, like the extraordinary opening of the *Lacrymosa*, could not

be fully registered. It scarcely mattered: half the desired impact will do in most cases. It is more disturbing that the great *Tuba mirum*, with its eight timpanists and its brass bands, had less than its authentically sensational effect: a roof which cannot be raised by a sound like that is surely a roof too high.

While the BBC Philharmonic and the choral voices could scarcely have played or sung any louder, they could certainly have extended the dynamic range at the other end of the scale. Otherwise, it was a most remarkable achievement on the part of Yan Pascal Tortelier, who controlled and inspired his assembled choral forces with masterful effect.

Although serious problems remain with the Bridgewater Hall, there does seem to be a solution. After moving to different parts of the auditorium and making inquiries at the second of the

Hallé Orchestra's concerts, on Thursday, I would suggest that the nearer you are to the platform the better the sound.

Much of the stalls area is fine, as are most seats one tier up in what is described as the choir circle. In the circle itself, on the other hand, while people feel that they are in close visual contact with the orchestra, they miss the equivalent aural intimacy or immediacy. As for the gallery, three tiers up, one would logically assume that the situation is worse. But in the stalls at least, the Hallé's *Rite of Spring* made an impressive impact.

It was possible to move about the Bridgewater Hall on this occasion, incidentally, because many seats were unsold. It is right that Kent Nagano should be looking for exciting new repertoire, but to offer new works by John Adams and Thomas Ades was asking for an embarrassing situation.

Adams's *Silentsky's Barbox* is a characteristic high-energy orchestral showpiece which finds its exhilaration in going that bit too far in every direction. Ades's *These Premises are Alarmed* tests the acoustic parameters and the virtuosos extremes imaginatively but all too briefly.

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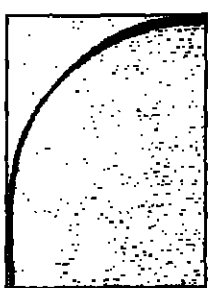
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■ VISUAL ART 1

House party: Rachel Whiteread reveals her extraordinary visions at the Tate in Liverpool



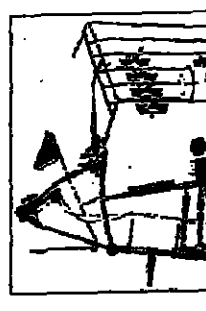
■ VISUAL ART 2

Household paint, simple lines: Ian Davenport focuses on the essentials at Waddington's

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

Judith Frost uses rock and earth from the desert landscape of Spain to make her drawings



■ VISUAL ART 4

... while the American artist Chris Burden documents events in his own life at London Projects

Richard Cork on Rachel Whiteread's superb Tate exhibition; plus Chinese treasures and other shows

The sculptures that broke the mould

The demolition of Rachel Whiteread's *House*, early in 1994, was a shocking and disgraceful blunder. It robbed us of an outstanding public sculpture, a potent memorial rooted in the East End of London and yet able to impinge on all our lives.

But at least the memory of *House* can never be obliterated. It haunts Whiteread's beautiful and immensely rewarding exhibition at the Tate Gallery Liverpool, the first substantial retrospective survey she has been given in Britain. Photographs of the lost sculpture are included here, along with a video charting the work's evolution and destruction.

The sadness and anger provoked by these images are countered, in the same room, by a model for Whiteread's forthcoming Holocaust Memorial in Vienna. Commissioned as a monumental sculpture for the Judenplatz, this pale, restrained yet awesome presence evokes the interior of a great library. While the cast books lining the monument's walls offer a reassuring link with the past, they also seem tragically exposed and glacial. I only hope that the current Viennese political infighting does not prevent Whiteread's gravely contemplative work from reaching fruition. The Holocaust Memorial promises to be as haunting as *House*, simultaneously celebrating endurance and commemorating loss.

The wonder is that Whiteread can generate such complex responses by following so simple and direct a working procedure. With admirable clarity of purpose, she has pursued a single-minded course ever since leaving the Slade School of Art in 1987. The following year, at the age of 25, she made *Closest*, the earliest sculpture on view. Taking an ordinary wooden wardrobe, she emptied the inside, laid it on its back, drilled several holes in the doors and then filled it to overflowing with plaster. Finally, the shell of the wardrobe was jettisoned, leaving a bleached cast of the interior in its place.

Rather than leaving it naked, she covered the plaster replica with black felt. While this Beuys-like material gives the sculpture a protective layer, its colour is funeral and claustrophobic. It seems to



"Ranged across the widest single section of the show, these compact resin units unfold in a muted yet marvellously sensuous array of colours": Rachel Whiteread's installation *Untitled (One Hundred Spaces)*

conjure childhood memories of hiding in a wardrobe, and finding that excitement can easily turn to fear once the door has been shut.

The paradox inherent in the whole idea of casting an empty space, of making the hidden visible, must have fascinated Whiteread. She was probably aware that, way back in 1965, Bruce Nauman had made a plaster cast of the space under his chair. But Nauman only

repeated the experiment twice: whereas Whiteread decided to explore the possibilities opened up by *Closest* in all her subsequent work.

In 1990, her *annus mirabilis*, she cast the space around a square sink, transforming the banality of her starting-point into a mysterious, slab-like presence, unknowable and immemorial. The plaster is left bare this time. Whiteread makes no attempt to hide its

rawness, just as she leaves the divisions between the sections frankly exposed.

When she turned her attention to a bath in the same year, though, the outcome was more ominous. Deprived of its taps, plug and shiny metal interior, the bath-shaped cavity resting within the plaster blocks takes on a melancholy air. It resembles a sarcophagus unearthed in some primordial tomb. Satisfying in its chaste simplicity, *Untitled (Bath)* is at the same time freighted with grief. Dark streaks run down from the tap holes, giving them an uncanny resemblance to weeping eyes.

Whiteread has the ability to invest even the most mundane, overlooked aspects of existence with unexpected dignity and fascination. Nothing could be more banal than the objects she chooses as her raw material. But by the time she has cast the space under a bed in rubber, and half-propped

this burnished amber oblong against a wall, the nondescript is transformed, like the submerged coral-boned skeleton in *The Tempest*, into "something rich and strange".

The casual way in which the bed-cast is displayed, gently curved and leaning, shows how informal Whiteread can sometimes be. In another mood, though, she prefers absolute severity. Nothing could be more resolute than the seven elements comprising *Untitled (Floor)*, a remarkably multipart installation in a room on its own.

At first, these dark and powerful oblongs look almost charred, as if they have survived an ordeal by conflagration. Their uneven resin surfaces seem churned, like the wind-whipped and equally grimy waters of the Mersey visible through a nearby window. But then, quite suddenly, a bar of sunlight appears, striking through the glass and

across one corner of the sculpture. Whiteread's brooding resin is set ablaze. Its former solidity is ousted, as the sun reveals the oblongs' transparency. While glowing like ingots, they disclose the fact that their maker has created them from airy nothing — the gaps between the floorboards' underlying supports.

In her most recent work, Whiteread moves away from her former reliance on found objects. She starts making her own forms, specifically for casting, and also indulges a passion for colour which her earlier work had suppressed. The austerity of white plaster gives way to polychromatic splendour, above all in a triumphant multipart installation called *Untitled (One Hundred Spaces)*. Ranged across the widest single section of the show, these compact resin units unfold in a muted yet

marvellously sensuous array of colours. Although hard enough to touch and defined with clear-cut lucidity, they seem as edible as jellies.

They also look more mysterious than most of Whiteread's work, refusing to yield up their origins as quickly as her early sculpture. Derived from the spaces underneath stools, chairs and tables, they transcend their origins and assume the four-square magnificence of temples.

All the same, the more disquieting reverberations of Whiteread's art refuse to go away. The objects gathered together in *Untitled (One Hundred Spaces)* also resemble caskets fit for cremated ashes, and we can walk up and down their ordered rows like visitors to a military graveyard. The memorialising side of her imagination is as insistent as ever, suggesting that she remains steadfastly attached to the idea of giving

permanent, ennobling form to the most exceptional aspects of domestic life.

Like the empty seats encircling *The Table of Silence*, Brancusi's great memorial to the First World War in Romania, the pieces congregated in *Untitled (One Hundred Spaces)* show no sign of human occupation. Somehow, though, the human presence is implicit in everything Whiteread produces. The title of a moving new work, *Untitled (Double Rubber Plinth)*, does nothing to inform us that it derives from the space beneath a mortuary slab. But, far from wallowing in morbidity, these luminous forms calmly acknowledge the prospect of death. Accepting that mortal loss is inescapable, they nevertheless confront its certainty with warmth, serenity and redemptive stillness.

● Rachel Whiteread at the Tate Gallery Liverpool, Albert Dock (0151-709 3223) until Jan 5

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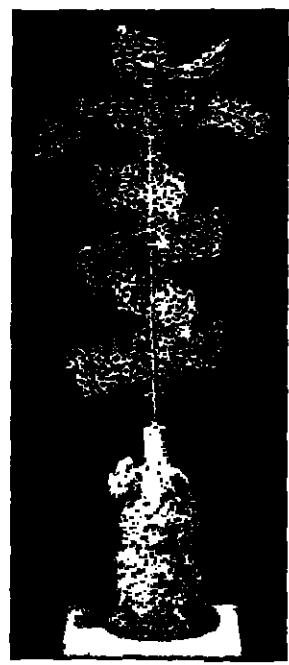
MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA

Richard Cork continues his daily series on the British Museum's magnificent *Mysteries of Ancient China* show

MONEY TREE

ONE of the few complete examples of the so-called "money shaking trees", made between AD25 and AD200 with coins placed in their branches. Superbly crafted in bronze and ceramic, the tree rises from its heavy base and sprouts intricate, perforated branches. Their leaves are fashioned into tiny images of mythical animals, coins and human or divine figures. They were regarded in the Han period as symbols of eternal wealth, ensuring that the inhabitant of the tomb would always retain the riches accrued during life on earth.

This splendid example was discovered in 1972, still resting in a rock tomb robbed of all its other objects. The clay pedestal was probably meant to represent a mountain. On all ten of the branches the Queen Mother of the West, Xi Wang Mu, appears as the principal deity. In the Han dynasty, she was held to possess the tail of a leopard and teeth of a tiger. But this formidable figure is surrounded, at the top of the tree, by a peacock-



like bird with a curved neck and elongated tail. It resembles a weather vane, waiting to register which way the money is blowing.

● *Mysteries of Ancient China*, sponsored by The Times, continues at the British Museum to Jan 5. Admission £5; bookings on 0171-420 0000

TOMORROW: A group of painted wooden figures

Still room for a thin line

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE style has changed. Instead of the dazzling retinal play of earlier work, Ian Davenport's new paintings almost seem static. Each is a large flat area of household paint colour; against this a thin line arches up, nearly touches the sides, and tucks in slightly at the bottom. The image has become simple. In the larger of the two galleries the individual paintings look crowded, the display a bit too formulaic.

Along the street in the smaller Waddington's space Davenport substitutes the drawn, dripped coloured line. Concurrently, at Ridinghouse Editions, a number of black paintings make an equally good show where the play between shiny paint, opaque paint, detail and generality continues.

Waddington Galleries, 12/13 Cork St, London W1 (0171-437 8611) until Oct 12. Ridinghouse Editions, 63 Riding House St, London W1 (0171-255 1160) until Oct 19

□ LONDON Projects finds itself playing the role of historical museum and art gallery. Photographs of performances and sculpture initiated by the American artist Chris Burden while a young artist in the 1970s are displayed as if recently lifted from a file: Burden with his

hair cut off; Burden having been shot in the left arm by a friend; and so on. They are displayed with a black border and holes for filing.

Two recently completed sculptures break this documentary flow and bring the survey up to date. Despite his great notoriety and some extraordinary proposals for projects, this artist has seldom had the opportunity to exhibit in this country. The danger is that such a show might reinforce the cult-figure myth and not support any new initiative. London Projects, 47 Frith St, London W1 (0171-734 1723) until Oct 5

□ A SERIES of works on paper by Judith Frost conveys the sense of an artist who works close up to, and even on top of, the image. The drawings are influenced by time spent in the desert landscape of southern Spain, although they carry no obvious vision of landscape. Frost uses actual earth and mineral rock to draw, physically feeling her way across the paper. Despite little easy reference or description, the subject is clear to grasp, and the eye is drawn far into the work. The architecture firm Shillam and Smith

has initiated this simple exhibition space above its office and the working atmosphere particularly suits this series of drawings.

Shillam and Smith 3, 122 Great Titchfield St, London W1 (0171-637 0057) until Oct 11

□ THE show Fritz and Betty takes place in three empty shops along Exmouth Market, and makes a number of light but worthwhile comparisons between the work of six artists. Clare Woods paints in the now-familiar style of the comic drawing. It is a simple idea: the first group of paintings shows a number of close-up consenting kisses between a man and a woman while the next set shows a woman's face forced, twisted and bullied to the point of tears in a vice-like embrace.

Stuart Cumberland, who co-curated the show, shows sculptures where material of incredible familiarity is slightly transformed in order to conjure an effective image. For instance, a cardboard box is painted blue inside to make *Swimming Pool*, while a folding chair and a polystyrene cup make *Splash at Sea*. All the artists, more or less effectively, manage some level of lift-off and transformation. 27, 43 and 53 Exmouth Market, London EC1 (0171-739 7228) until Oct 13

THEATRE

Worn down by Goethe: the RSC's staging of *Faust* fails to hold the attention



DANCE

The touring Scottish Ballet has mixed fortunes with a triple-bill called *Sweat, Baroque and Roll*

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 1

Sir Colin Davis opens the LSO season with a world premiere

VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican Hall

CHOICE 2

... while Sir Peter Hall's *Oedipus* staging comes to London

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Olivier Theatre

Too many damned scenes

This is the Goethe version of *Faust*, mighty in scale, ranging to the extremes of language, sublime and coarse, as Mussorgsky's *Song of the Flea* started here — and a punishing ordeal to sit through.

Michael Bogdanov directs. Howard Brenton provides an English version in lines of varied length, usually rhyming, but bringing no excitement at the rhyme. The occasional phrase sings in the ear for a passing moment but dry rhetoric is soon restored.

The first part lasts for about three hours, and the second continues for another three, and as each part is divided by an interval there are several occasions when members of the audience can discontinue the fatiguing experience simply by not resuming their seats.

The second quarter is the easiest to endure since it contains the story of sweet-hearted Gretchen, subtly and movingly played by Sophie Heyman. Kate Duchene playing her friend Marthe is also always worth watching. Unfortunately Gretchen's brother Valentine comes with the package and before he dies finds time to curse and expose

her, establishing himself as the nastiest character in all dramatic literature from Aeschylus to Ayckbourn.

If nothing else, the role of *Faust* is an exhausting test of memory for the actor. It is a little more than this, though in Bogdanov's production not a great deal, because what *Faust* does, and the nature of his desires and arguments, so seldom engages the interest. Michael Feist is good as the grouchy old man at the beginning, and impressive —

hours later — when he has aged again and is careworn but still roaring defiance. With Gretchen he is an attentive and wondering lover. But for the rest, the long disputes on dissonant, and his trips to kitchens, laboratories and whip-wielding witches on mountain tops is just One Damned Scene After Another.

"Do we really have to go to Ancient Greece?" asks Mephisto. I'd have said no but they depart there nonetheless. In among all these outings are reflections on sensation, renunciation and such heavy topics. But they don't register, and often the actions and arguments are so deviously cerebral that the function of certain scenes becomes impossible to grasp.

Since last year's Stratford



Good, bad and ugly: Jeffery Dench (God) meets Hugh Quarshie (Mephisto, right)

premiere the RSC production appears to have shed some of the prancing nudity. Mephisto still pants lustfully after the cherubs in the final scene, but this is in the original Goethe; it is what attracts him when he has *Faust* in his clutches. Hugh Quarshie is a supreme-

ly elegant devil, genial and sparkling (though sometimes the smile ominously freezes). The tilting mirror at the back of Chris Dyer's set gives intriguing views of the actors from their other side — but Bogdanov's jokey redemption scene is a baffling variation on

the original. Gretchen's love, God's wager, *Faust*'s behaviour, may all present difficulties today, but if production does not take them seriously what is the point of the enterprise?

JEREMY KINGSTON



Rupert Jowett and Lorna Scott in *Four Seasons*

Limp classics redeemed by hunks

SCOTTISH Ballet's new triple bill, pithily titled *Sweat, Baroque and Roll*, shows Galina Samoylova to be a director with a fairly imaginative commissioning policy. Take Mark Baldwin, who is fast becoming one of the finest dancers in the country, and Robert Cohan, whose decades at the head of British contemporary dance give him unparalleled experience. Put them together on the same bill and the possibilities for exciting innovation are in place. Add to that a revival of Robert North's perennial winner *Troy Game* and everybody should be happy.

But not everything worked out as planned, at least on the evidence of Scottish Ballet's matinee performance in Norwich on Saturday. Baldwin delivered quite a lively opening number called *Haydn Pieces* (set to Haydn piano sonatas) that should have bounced along nicely, given the right dancers. The choreography (his first for a classical company) is pert and playful, with a gamine quality that could be most appealing. But the men and women of

DANCE

Scottish Ballet
Theatre Royal, Norwich

Scottish Ballet looked curiously untested on stage, as if not quite sure how to handle the flirtatiousness of Baldwin's larkish scenario. Although *Haydn Pieces* is filled with a youthful innocence, it does require maturity from its interpreters.

Cohan's *Four Seasons* is an ambitious attempt to deal with Vivaldi's long score in dance terms. All the more ambitious since Cohan is relatively new to the language of classical ballet. The four segments are each introduced by a pair of hermits, accompanied by various sound effects putting us in the appropriate mood (insects for summer, thunderstorms for autumn).

Norberto Chiesa's designs are colour-coded — bright green announces spring,

warm red summer — and they make it clear what qualities Cohan is going for in each segment. The optimism of spring is evoked in bright cartwheels; summer is strong and athletic; winter is more thoughtfully abstract (which is perhaps why it is also the best of the quartet).

Cohan uses the classical vocabulary imaginatively at times, particularly for the group, but at others seems confused about how to get from one position to another, making his dancers look awkward in the process. Of the four leading couples, Winter's Robert Hampton and Linda Packer stood out.

As befits a programme-closer, *Troy Game*, the ancient warriors' body-building workout gave the audience something to cheer. Hunks bodies dripping sweat, fists clenched in macho bravura, and the flexing of well-endowed biceps: this is what *Troy Game* is all about and the men of Scottish Ballet gave it their best.

DEBRA CRAINE

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

JERWOOD PAINTING PRIZE 1996. An exhibition of selected artists at The Leathers Gallery, Central St Martin's College of Art & Design, Southampton Row, London, WC1. 10-22 September 1996. 10am-5pm daily. Admission free. For further information ring 01732 482190.

EXHIBITION

The Joy of Landscape by Francis Le Marchant. Roy Miles Gallery, 29 Bruton Street, W1. Tel. 0171 493 4747.

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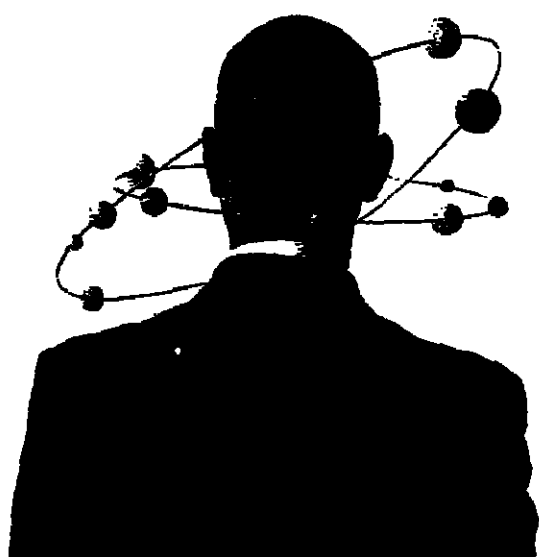
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LAW

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In terror of the accused

Frances Gibb
on why victims'
rights are still
not respected
by the courts

Last week a woman who was left "scared, worried and sick" by a man she accuses of stalking her for four years had to confront her alleged tormentor in court when he cross-examined her for 33 minutes. Dennis Chambers, defending himself, was allowed to leave the dock and sit closer to Margaret Bent, his alleged victim. She could hardly look at him but stared straight ahead. The case was the third in recent weeks in which victims of crime have suffered in the witness box.

A Japanese student was forced to spend 12 days in the witness box, reliving two days of rape by a gang of youths. This time the cross-examination was at the hands of counsel. In a third case two weeks before, Julia Mason, another rape victim, waived her right to anonymity to protest about the way her attacker, defending himself, was allowed to spend six days questioning her.

The ordeals have prompted calls for a reform in the law to restrict the ancient right of defendants to represent themselves. Judges, some say, should have discretion to insist on legal representation. But the cases also raise the wider issue of the witness box trauma. Should particularly vulnerable victims — those alleging rape, and children — be forced to endure the same open court grilling as all other defendants? Or do they deserve special treatment?

Last week Victim Support, the crime victims' charity, published a report, which was a damning indictment of the way in which courts treat child witnesses. Children forced to go to court, often in sex abuse cases, still have to wait many hours, or even days, before giving evidence and get little support for the experience, it found. Based on the experi-



Dennis Chambers, defending himself, was allowed to leave the dock and sit closer to his alleged victim

ences of 1,000 children in 26 Crown Courts, the report showed that seven years after a landmark report by Judge Pigot which urged measures to ease the trauma for child witnesses, including the giving of evidence by closed-circuit TV link from another room, court practice remains patchy. Children are not always allowed to use such links. One girl aged 11 became incoherent and distressed when she found she had to give evidence in open court. The case was dismissed. A special child-witness pack, published three years ago with the backing of the Lord Chancellor's Department, was used for only 25 per cent of children. One judge did not know what it was and tried to stop its use.

Delays, too, remain frequent. Many children are called to court hours or days before they have to give evidence, despite a Victim's Charter stating that the maximum

wait should be two hours. In one sexual assault case, two girls were called to court and sent home six times. One in three had to wait for more than four hours. Many were also called to court and then not needed — 28 per cent of children in sexual cases and 33 per cent in other cases.

Helen Reeves, the director of the charity, blames the "sensitivity" of defence lawyers to any reform that could be seen as weakening the position of the defendant. This creates a lot of "extra difficulty" for children, she says. As a result, many cases cannot go to court because victims are too frightened to give evidence. "We cannot," she says, "permit that to continue."

But lawyers point to the importance of the defendant's case being fully put, in the interests of their fundamental

right to a fair trial and to avoid appeals. Graham Cooke, a barrister, says that whether the defendant is arguing "not me" or that (in rape cases) the victim consented or that the assault did not happen, close questioning of the victim is unavoidable. If consent is the issue, the defence "will need to explore the distressing detail in cross-examination" to identify any contradictions or improbable assertions.

Mr Cooke says: "It is simply not good enough for the defence advocate to do no more than assert that the complainant is lying and then put the defendant in the witness box to say it did not happen." But he favours a change in the law so that defendants can be prevented, in rape and indecency cases, from being allowed to cross-examine in person.

Others want further changes: the right of rape victims to give evidence via live video link and a tougher line

by judges in controlling counsel. But curbs on the defence carry a risk that the case would be quashed on appeal. Anne Rafferty, QC, the Criminal Bar Association chairman, says that knowing when to cut off cross-examination is difficult; only the defence has a grasp of the whole case.

Judges are already given guidance on being alert to successful cross-examination. This, she says, could be underlined.

Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, admits that more — such as setting national standards for children's cases, fast-tracking of child-abuse cases and a tougher line on defence requests for adjournments — can be done without jeopardising defendants' rights. A "good practice" video is also being sent out to judges and lawyers. All, says Ms Reeves, would go some way to ensure that victims are not harmed yet further by the court process.

Why women get a raw deal in the courts

It is a truism that our judiciary is male-dominated, particularly at senior levels. It is also a truism that this has negative consequences for women. As the chairwoman of the Association of Women Barristers said in a letter to *The Times* recently: "The consequences of this lack of women in the senior judiciary reverberate through every level of society, reinforcing the de facto status of women as less authoritative than men, and the perception of their experience and contribution as less valuable."

Our judges are understandably concerned that they treat everyone equally, and that individual claims of "gender-insensitive" behaviour may be attributed to misreporting by the media. The one possibility which they cannot bring themselves to contemplate is that gender inequality in our judiciary can work injustice. The notion that there is gender bias in our courts is dismissed as too terrible to be credited.

As Professor Kathleen Mahoney, of the University of Calgary's faculty of law, has said: "The idea that courts could be acting in a manner prejudicial to a specific group in society is generally rejected outright... To further complicate matters, the issue of bias is often personalised and reduced to the assertions of individual judges denying prejudice on their part or on the parts of their associates. This reaction is, in fact, inappropriate because it confuses the concepts of overt discrimination with systemic discrimination."

She says that though overt bias is relatively easy to identify and rectify, systemic bias is far more pervasive and insidious and is therefore much more difficult to eradicate.

One does not have to look far for examples of what many would regard as systemic gender bias in our courts: the industrial tribunal that refuses to accept that pornography in the workplace constitutes unequal treatment; the appellate courts that jib at the idea that pregnancy dismissal might constitute sex discrimination; the Family Division that has authorised the use of force to impose obstetric interventions (such as forceps delivery, an induced birth and a Caesarean birth) on unconsenting pregnant women, but, in contrast, has protected a man's right to refuse amputation of a gangrenous limb (although the patient was a paranoid schizophrenic in Broadmoor, and refusal could have caused death); the plummeting conviction rate for rape trials (down from 24 per cent in 1985 to 8 per cent in 1994); and the difficulty that victims of domestic violence face in obtaining an effective remedy.

No one would think that, in such cases,

judges are seeking to disadvantage women; yet, women undoubtedly are disadvantaged. Judges can sometimes be bedevilled by sexual stereotypes and misconceptions about women, and sometimes by uncertainty about what sexual equality means. In the recent House of Lords case *Webb v EMO Cargo*, in which it was found that it was unlawful to dismiss on grounds of pregnancy, a senior judge compared the position of the pregnant employee to the man selected to play cricket for England, despite the absurdity of this comparison.

Recent steps taken by the Judicial Studies Board, which is in charge of judges' training, to propose a module in "gender awareness" within a "human awareness" training programme for judges, may provide a way forward. It need hardly be said that such a programme has to be properly resourced and supported by senior judges in order to be effective. Nor should this sort of programme be viewed as a cosmetic addition to other forms of training. It concerns fundamental goals: the elimination of bias in the courtroom, equality before the law and access to justice for more than half the population.

Again, the Canadians may assist. Professor Mahoney tells us that the Western Judicial Education Centre has, since 1988, been organising continuing education programmes for judges from western and northwestern Canada, focusing specifically on delivery of justice to aboriginal people, gender equality in judicial decision-making and racial, ethnic and cultural equity.

One gender-training programme in 1991 took two days and, she says, involved three approaches: exploring the principles of equality in substantive law (which, if applied here, might include the jurisprudence of the European Convention on Human Rights), investigating the systemic social and economic consequences of sex discrimination, especially in terms of violence and poverty, and an examination of the consequences that individuals experience as a result of bias in the courts (such as rape victims and battered victims). Other topics included sexist language and the credibility of men as a group compared with women.

If the Judicial Studies Board could develop something along these lines, it would be an important development in promoting access to justice for women.

● The writer is a practising barrister.

● From *International Strategies to Implement Equality Rights for Women: Overcoming Gender Bias in the Courts*, University of Pennsylvania Human Rights Book Series.



BARBARA HEWSON

What are Labour's law plans?

The Bar has put Labour's policies for the legal system at the top of the agenda of its conference this year with a keynote speech by Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor. Barristers will also have their first chance to grill the shadow Lord Chancellor at the one-day conference on September 28, which has Cherie Booth, QC, wife of the Labour leader, as vice-chairman of its organising board. Lord Irvine is taking part in an open forum at which other panellists include Lord Justice Rose, chairman of the Criminal Justice Consultative Council.

Stephen Hockman, QC, the conference chairman, said the programme was very much geared to the concerns of practitioners — which included Labour's policies. "It is important that the Bar does not support one political

party or another," he said. "But as we approach a general election, it seemed obvious to ask Lord Irvine to come."

Criminal justice reforms and the Government's sentencing proposals will be main topics. Roy Amiot, QC, is talking on disclosure, Anthony Arlidge, QC, on the right to silence and Anne Owens of Justice on the new Criminal Cases Review Authority.

Two other key sessions are on human rights law and the European Convention on Human Rights, in which Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, and Home Affairs Select Committee chairman, will spar with Geoffrey Robertson, QC. Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, will chair a workshop on devolving commercial and chancery work. Barristers' clerks will hold a question-and-answer session on improving services to clients, and Mr

Justice Bell will chair a personal injuries and professional negligence session, in which a consultant surgeon, using X-rays and models of back injuries, will give a medical-style lecture. The day, at the Whitbread Brewery, City, ends with a formal dinner. Guest speaker will be Clive Anderson.

● For details of the conference, and/or dinner, sponsored by *The Times*, contact Blair Communications, 0171-722 9731. Discounts for students, three barristers from one set of chambers and those outside London.

● The new *Chambers & Partners' Directory of the Legal Profession* is published this week. The 1,600-page guide contains information on highly rated solicitors (from small firms and large) and barristers in 60 areas of law, region by region, as well as every barrister in practice. The guide profiles 3,800 solicitors and 2,100 barristers. Details: Chambers, 0171-606 2260.

MP goes to the dogs

GARY STREETER, MP, who infuriated solicitors within weeks of arriving at the Lord Chancellor's Department with his comment about legal aid "rottenweilers", may receive a stormy reception this Thursday when he addresses solicitors on legal aid reforms at a one-day conference in Cardiff organised by the Law Society and Legal Aid Practitioners' Group.

Government plans to reform legal aid are still a primary target, although a Bill is not now planned for next session.

Bar Council bid

SO FAR, Anne Rafferty, QC, the chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, has resisted the temptation to try to win the chairmanship of the Bar

Council. Her supporters will be hoping that this autumn she will finally try to become the first woman Bar Council leader by standing for the vice-chairmanship, the traditional route to chairman.

To judge by her acerbic criticisms of ministers in the CBA newsletter, she would make a formidable leader.



Anne Rafferty, QC: resisting

Reform opposed

LAST week a coalition made up of the Law Society and nine main advice groups launched a campaign of opposition to those legal aid reforms likely to go ahead because they do not need legislation.

The groups, including the Legal Action Group, Child Poverty Action Group and Shelter, say that the plans would undermine the ability of those on low incomes to enforce their rights.

Advice agencies say they will boycott the reforms if necessary. Steve Johnson, for the Federation of Independent Advice Centres, said agencies would not want to means-test people or collect proposed contributions towards legal fees. If they had

to, it was "inevitable" that advice centres would refuse to do legal aid work.

No Lockerbie trial

THE two men accused of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie will never stand trial, their lawyers claimed at a conference in London last week.

Ibrahim Legwell and Alistair Duff told the delegates at Lockerbie: Where Now?, a conference organised by the International Bar Association and the Arab Lawyers Union, that pre-trial publicity had removed their clients' chances of a fair trial, and that they would fight any attempt to extradite them. Mr Legwell said: "There is no obligation to extradite them. Further, if they are extradited, the conditions in which extradition takes place must be compatible with fundamental human rights."

SCRIVENOR

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

US SECURITIES LAWYERS

As part of Clifford Chance's continuing worldwide expansion of its securities practice, we will be looking to recruit over the next six months US securities lawyers to be based initially in our London office with opportunities to be transferred to either Hong Kong or New York after a few years.

We are seeking qualified lawyers with between one to six years' experience, the majority of which should have been gained in a top Wall Street/New York law firm.

You would be part of a developing dynamic, entrepreneurial team advising top rate clients on capital markets and securities issues worldwide.

Your commitment would be rewarded with a highly competitive remuneration package and career development opportunities.

Please send your CV to:

Teresa King
International Personnel Manager

200 Aldersgate Street
London EC1A 4JJ

Tel: 0171 600 1000
Fax: 0171 956 0175

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International Publishing House

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL/
COMPANY SECRETARY

TO £50,000 basic + bonus + benefits

Do you have the skills necessary to assume the role of In-house Counsel/Company Secretary for this household name publishing company, based in superb offices in London? Publishers are generally well educated, articulate and intelligent – so, you will need to be more than just a good lawyer to hold your own with them.

You should have, at the minimum, 2 years' experience of extensive commercial contract drafting together with substantive intellectual property expertise, including in particular copyright. Specific experience in the publishing field would be of interest, but is not a prerequisite. Experience of managing litigation would be an advantage.

Working as the only legal adviser in this group company, you will deal with senior management, authors, publishers and editors, in addition to contracts, rights and sales departments, and outside counsel. The wide scope of this role will necessitate a flexible, firm and commercially aware approach. You must have the courage of your convictions, and the ability to handle fellow professionals with patience and tact. The package includes a car and other benefits.

For further information about this superb position, in complete confidence, please contact Stephen Rodney on 0171-405 6062 (0181-520 6559 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougal Commerce & Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JL. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394. E-mail stephe@qdrec.demon.co.uk



UNITED KINGDOM • FRANCE • THE NETHERLANDS • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

LEGAL
APPOINTMENTS

Corporate Finance Executives

Leeds

£ Excellent

NatWest Markets is the worldwide corporate and investment banking arm of NatWest Group, one of the largest and best capitalised banking groups in the world. It is a global institution employing over 7,000 staff in 55 different offices across 25 countries.

Due to the continued expansion of their client base, there are now opportunities for ambitious young professionals to join the corporate finance team of 15 in the North of England. The region is of strategic importance to NatWest Markets whose objective is to establish itself as the pre-eminent provider of financial advice, products and services in the North.

Based in Leeds, Executives will work locally in conjunction

with the senior team in executing a wide range of transactions, involving both listed and unlisted companies, in addition to developing business initiatives in the region. As such, these positions offer a challenging and growing environment with opportunities for substantial career development and progression.

The successful candidates will be ACAs or Solicitors with 1-4 years post qualification experience. The candidates will be resilient, dynamic professionals who are able to deal with people at all levels of seniority within the local and national business community. An affinity for client development and service, combined with exceptional commercial and interpersonal skills, will be a pre-requisite to success.

Interviews will be held in Leeds and London.

Interested candidates should send a detailed curriculum vitae to Peter Thompson, Michael Page Legal, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH, tel 0171 269 2239, fax 0171 831 6662.

NATWEST MARKETS

Welcome to the front line
Global Transaction Management

NOMURA

Nomura International plc is one of the world's largest investment banks. Our swift growth and innovative product development places us firmly in the vanguard of international investment banking. Our London office is distinguished by a lively and non-hierarchical culture, where the management style is both open and progressive. If you want to be involved in structuring and negotiating some of the most exciting global transactions around, the Nomura proposition is compelling.

Our transaction management team in London routinely deals with transactions across the full range of investment banking products including Debt and Equity Capital Markets, Derivatives and Asset Finance.

At Nomura, every transaction manager develops specialist experience in two or three business areas, but also maintains involvement across a much wider range of products. Due to continued growth we are currently recruiting professionals in the following areas:

Capital Markets

Ideally you should have at least two years' experience of Debt and/or Equity Capital Markets, either within another leading transaction management group or a leading law firm. Fluency in any European language would be an advantage. In addition, this appointment is likely to involve some travel.

Structured Finance

Probably at least two years' qualified, you must have some Capital Markets experience and some exposure to and experience of repackaging securities using special purpose vehicles.

Derivatives

You will have around three years' Derivatives and Banking or Capital Markets experience and should have the personality to work closely with front-office personnel advising on the structuring of derivative products whilst regulating the incidence of legal risk.

These appointments are only the latest stage in a sustained programme of growth. Continuing expansion means that the scope for personal and professional development is exceptionally good.

The salary and benefits packages are pitched specifically to attract individuals of the highest calibre and potential. Join us and you will be part of a friendly yet fiercely professional team working at the front line of our global business.

If you're interested in the Nomura proposition, please contact our advising consultant, Geraldine Hetherington, at In-House Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Tel: 0171-405 0151. Fax: 0171-831 7969. (Evenings and weekends on 0171-713 5431.) E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk

IN-HOUSE
LEGAL

CHAMBERS

The 1996 Directory

The new edition of Chambers & Partners' Directory is now out. An innovation in the 'bar' part of the book is the 'Stars at the Bar' section, introduced to cater for those barristers such as Gordon Pollock, Jonathan Sumption and Michael Beloff who have such broad practices that they rise above individual specialisms.

We also researched top barristers' earnings, identifying Gordon Pollock, Anthony Giesner and Christopher Carr as the highest earners (up to £1.5 million a year). Four other barristers said to be in the £1 million bracket were Jonathan Sumption, Michael Beloff, Michael Burton, and Peter Scott. Their huge fees are derived principally from court work. Fees for drafting opinions, however, are much lower.

In other respects, the directory continues the trend of recent years with greater emphasis on leading practitioners. There are more names, there is more information about them, and the information is more readily accessible. The main change this year is that the directory has been even more intensively researched. A team of a dozen researchers – mainly solicitors from private practice, several of them well known in their field – spent six months full-time, from January to June, talking to key practitioners in every area of law finding out what they do and what others are doing. Clients, too, were interviewed for their opinions. As a result, the directory provides a guide to leading firms and leading practitioners which is more reliably researched than any other.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS
71 Long Lane
London EC1A 3ET
Tel: 0171-605 9371
Fax: 0171-605 1765

INDUSTRY & BANKING Sonya Rayner

Hi-tech: South East

Solicitor with approx 4 yrs' exp and exp of working in the hi-tech industry to join well-known computer co as sole lawyer for one of its businesses. Must enjoy being autonomous as well as being part of a larger legal dept and enjoy international travel.

Fluent French: West London

Solicitor with 3-4 yrs' exp to join legal dept of int'l industrial services co. Work will focus on comm contracts. Must be bilingual French/English. Would also suit lawyers qual'd in French speaking countries.

Hi-tech: South East

Solicitor with c.2 yrs' exp to join established legal dept of well-known hi-tech co. Work will be broad general comm. Must have commercial acumen.

Commercial Lawyer: Amsterdam

Opportunity for lawyer with 3-6 yrs' exp of European common law to join legal dept of well-known international co. Exp of working in industry essential. Overseas travel often at short notice.

Legal Adviser: Aberdeen

English or Scottish lawyer with min 3 yrs' exp to join legal team of leading specialist int'l contracting co. Work will involve reviewing, drafting, negotiating and advising on contracts. Oil industry background preferred; insurance knowledge an advantage.

Commercial Lawyer: Brussels

Opportunity for ambitious young commercial lawyer to join dynamic legal department of successful international FMCG company. Good career prospects.

PRIVATE PRACTICE London: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson

South: Harriet Stow North & Midlands: Suki Bahra

Partnership Positions

We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Senior Media/Telecoms: City

Well-known City firm with strong media practice seeks partner or ex-assistant. Ideally with some following, to join growing multimedia group. Superb client base.

Corporate Tax: City

No competition for partnership at one of the best-regarded medium-sized firms. 4-5 yr qual solr sought to advise on broad range of corp transactions. To £58,000.

Property Litigation: City

Large City firm seeks NQ-2 yrs qual assistant with exp in property related lit to join team handling a wide range of L&T, development and planning work.

Corporate: City

Supported by leading international practice, outstanding career prospects offered to several 0-7 yr qual soliters sought for team servicing clients of highest quality.

Employment: WC1

Well-regarded, mid-sized firm seeks an accomplished employment solr with 2 yrs' exp to handle contentious work on behalf of an interesting mix of clients.

Commercial Property: City

Flourishing commercial property practice which actively encourages client contact seeks 1-3 year qual soliters for high quality sales and acquisitions, management, etc.

Corp Finance - Partner: Mx

Top firm now seeks a corporate finance partner or solr seeking to become a partner. Excellent salary offered.

NQ Opportunities: Manchester
NQ positions now available in pensions, corporate, banking, construction and commercial litigation.

Company/Comm Property: South West
Senior solr to handle a range of company and some commercial property work. A following is an advantage.

Residential Conveyancing: Essex
Superb opening for a NQ-2 yr lively solr to join the busy property dept of this friendly firm. Good salary.

Financial Services Lawyers. Gartmore is a leading global investment management

company, with funds under management of £49 billion. Gartmore provides a comprehensive range of investment products and services to clients world-wide, both in the institutional and retail sectors.

Gartmore was acquired by National Westminster Bank plc earlier this year. The acquisition was fully endorsed by Gartmore's management which is keen to exploit the new opportunities for development of the business presented by the change in ownership.

A key tenet of our business philosophy is to attract and develop exceptional people.

We are now seeking two lawyers with 1-3 years' post-qualification experience to handle a broad range of work for all business areas. Key areas will be drafting and negotiating investment management agreements and other client documentation, supporting fund managers and client services personnel, advising and preparing documents for authorised unit trusts, offshore funds, investment trusts and similar investment vehicles, negotiating software contracts and advising on information technology issues, general advice on regulatory issues and IMRO's requirements, general corporate advice and company secretarial work.

As well as having some financial services experience, candidates should be enthusiastic, self-motivated with good interpersonal and communication skills. An ability to work within a team is essential.

The successful applications will be rewarded with a competitive remuneration package including company car, pension, private medical and life assurance cover. To apply please send your C.V. and a covering letter to Mark Molloy, Senior HR Manager, Gartmore Investment Management plc, 16-18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ.

Gartmore

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لقد انزلنا من الأصل

Surinder Lall on the lack of legislative support for partially sighted employees

A voyage around prejudice

When I was planning to go to the Bar, I was discussing the idea of a blind person becoming a barrister with a well-known QC. He said: "I have never seen a blind barrister," implying that the idea was absurd. It did not follow, I suggested, that there had been none, nor that there could not be any in the future. I seem to remember that John Mortimer's father, immortalised in the barrister-author's book and television play, *A Voyage Round My Father*, was blind; but certainly, blind barristers are a rarity.

A consortium of organisations for the blind has just launched a new campaign, "Out of Sight — Out of Work", to improve the position of blind and partially sighted people seeking employment. Surveys have found that employers are overlooking visually disabled people. Even compared with other categories of disabled, the visually disabled suffer the greatest level of unfair discrimination — more than 75 per cent of visually disabled people of working age are unemployed.

Lawyers have displayed the same lack of enlightenment as other employers in their approach. In my experience (seeking to enter first the Bar and then later, the solicitors' profession), an emphasis is given at interviews to quenching the interviewers' curiosity about the detail of daily living; this is normally accompanied by utterances of pious amazement.

Often, this is at the expense of examining the employment capabilities of the interviewee. Interviews can seem like an exercise in light relief, intended to break the routine drudgery of office life.

At one interview with a chambers in The Temple, I was faced with a phalanx of five barristers. Their opening play was to tell me I had to

realise that "it was a tough world". I pointed out that it was not for a bunch of comfortable barristers to tell disabled people what a tough world it is.

Some years ago I was employed by a large West End law firm as a trainee solicitor. The idea was that I would be treated exactly like all the other trainees and given experience in several departments. Towards the end of the first six months, a circular went around with the departmental changes for the trainees — I was to move from property to litigation. On the appointed day, the other trainees changed departments. I was given various excuses for the delay in my move.

Eventually, I discovered that my designated move was aborted because the litigation department did not want a disabled person in their midst. This came as a surprise to the three partners who had originally recruited me. Without my knowledge, the matter went to a partners' committee. The partners had a clear choice: to make a stand against unfair discrimination or to support its perpetrators. They chose the latter and my employment ended. Because English law does not bar unfair dismissal on disability grounds, I was left with no remedy; employers can, and do, discriminate with impunity.

Even the most outstanding visually disabled candidates have an inordinately difficult task in prising open work and promotion opportunities. Take the case of a blind solicitor in a successful practice. After leaving university with impeccable academic credentials, he became a schoolteacher. He wanted to further his career, but realised that promotion prospects for a blind teacher were unpromising. After eight years of teaching, he decided to try his luck at another profession. Despite an excellent

One man was told that the course would be 'too onerous'



Surinder Lall: attitudes to blind and partially sighted people must change

academic and employment record, he was advised not to bother with undertaking the solicitors' conversion course because it would be "too onerous" for a blind person. He nevertheless enrolled and obtained the highest marks in his year. Thereafter, despite being an outstanding candidate, it took well over 200 applications before he was offered a training post. He became a successful solicitor and, at an early stage in his new career, attained partnership status.

The provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act will come into force in December. If the new Act is to meet the hopes of visually disabled people, it has to be accompanied by changes in attitude towards blind and partially sighted people as potential employees.

● The author, a barrister, is embarking on a writing career. *Out of Sight — Out of Work* was launched last week with the backing of the main charities for the blind, leading companies and the TUC. More details from the campaign hotline, 0171-2424477

Danger looming for the City

Alert lawyers would not have been surprised by the recent continental sabre-rattling over the position of London in the event of European monetary union going ahead without the UK's participation.

The matter is already being discussed with some urgency in leading legal circles, although most clients still seem to be blissfully unaware of the dangers. As the City law firm Cameron Markby Hewitt says: "No informed commentator doubts that EMU is of colossal importance to the European Union and to the UK. Yet the message does not seem to be reaching many of those who will be affected."

That, clearly, will now change. Paris and Frankfurt have fired some warning shots and Norton Rose has just published a special bulletin for its clients worldwide devoted to EMU, and the topic has also been taken up by the current issue of the magazine *European Financial Services Law Review*.

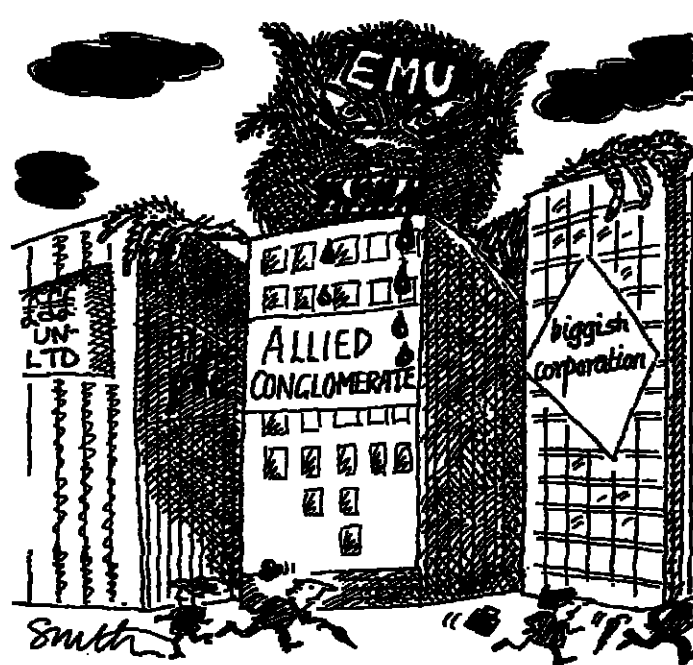
The challenge to lawyers here is how badly English law would be hurt if the City began to falter as Europe's leading financial centre. The financial establishment remains, unsurprisingly, bullish about the future, but there are cracks in the armour of confidence.

Pen Kent, executive director of the Bank of England, writing in *European Financial Services Law Review*, says: "In many people's eyes, EMU could seriously challenge the City if the UK does not join. They argue it might prompt a shift of business away from London to participant countries."

Those who control the strategies of the big City law firms already admit to some concern. Geoffrey Howe, Clifford Chance's managing partner, says: "I'm not sure what would happen if the euro currency went ahead without the UK, but there has to be some negative impact if Britain is not involved."

Even so, Mr Howe is confident that the underlying strength of London as the legal centre for Europe would prevent any immediate or dramatic impact. He says: "The effects would be marginal and medium-term."

Most London lawyers are inclined to agree. They are convinced that their international clients will continue to want their deals to be governed by English law. And, as Gilles Thieffry and Charles Proctor



Edward Fennell asks if the law is robust enough to cope with EMU

from Norton Rose point out in their recent survey, English law is robust enough to cope with EMU.

They say: "English law — combined with a few relevant principles of international law — already provides answers which are sufficient to meet the legal challenges of EMU. It follows that union should not in itself pose major legal problems for financial contracts."

But though English law is likely to continue to dominate international transactions, there might still be a trend away from the work being done in London itself.

As Mr Howe points out: "About 35 per cent of our business is now conducted outside the UK. That trend is likely to increase, and it could be accelerated if this country does not adopt the euro."

Whether or not the UK is involved, the transition period is bound to lead to complications. As Dorothy Livingston of Herbert Smith observes: "There is going to be an awkward phase in the early

years of the next century when it looks as though the euro and the national currencies will be operating at the same time. Banks and other financial institutions will need a lot of advice as old contracts will have to be reviewed and some will need to be adapted. There may be a certain amount of litigation arising out of this."

From the business point of view, Ms Livingston considers that adoption of the euro would be "very attractive, although in the short term, if the UK were to join, it would raise even more issues for lawyers to address."

The irony, perhaps, is that the most sensitive issue of all arises out of the status of the euro — an informal forerunner of the euro. Many deals have been done using this convenient device, but Richard ParLOUR of Garrett & Co's banking department thinks that the uncertain future of the euro could have explosive repercussions. He says: "The continuity of the euro/euro market will be the key to successful EMU, but people do not want to discuss it much in public for fear of disturbing the current euro market."

So EMU will undoubtedly spring some surprises. Now is the time for the lawyers to start preparing for them.

NEW SALARY SURVEY 1996

The Consultants at **Garfield Robbins** have all joined from private practice, having worked in such firms as Ashurst Morris Crisp, McKenna & Co, Linklaters & Paines, Cameron Markby Hewitt, Olswang, Clifford Chance, Taylor Joynson Garrett and Watson, Farley and Williams.

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positions in Banks and Industry. In addition, as an example of our value added approach, a senior consultant will be available to advise on interview skills and prepare you for the toughest of interviews.

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ENERGY/OIL GAS

5 Years + Qualified to £90,000
A significant increase and investment in power projects at this highly regarded City practice has created a need for a senior lawyer. Candidates will have an oil and gas background and may be currently in private practice or in-house. Project work at the practice involves domestic and international work and candidates will be expected to liaise closely with strong banking/construction and project finance teams. Ref: T10768F.

ARBITRATION/LITIGATION

Partner Level £Partnership
A top firm, known for its international arbitration work in London, is seeking a lateral hire, someone who is already a partner at a major firm or recognised litigation practice. This will be working with well-known advisers in this field on a range of matters, with an international bias. The role would particularly suit someone who wishes to continue handling high profile work for top clients in a smaller, more relaxed atmosphere. Ref: T8881E.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - IN-HOUSE

2 Years + Qualified to £45,000
Recently formed innovative company, based in central London, is seeking an energetic young lawyer to act as in-house legal adviser/company secretary. The work will involve corporate and commercial transactions, in particular acquisitions and joint ventures. Intellectual property and employment experience are desirable, although not essential and applicants must have some relevant company secretarial experience. The long term benefits of this position are unlimited. Ref: T10908J.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Senior to £Partnership
This is a rare opportunity to join a small City firm with a very strong private company client base whose property transactions are increasing at a huge rate. A client following is essential, as is a demonstration of marketing ability as there is great potential to really promote this department with existing clients. Ref: T10189G.

EXPLORE THE ALTERNATIVES

BANKING

Who wants a seat round the partnership table? You do! Who wants to join a top regional firm's London office? You do! Who has 6+ years' ppe in general banking with contacts with lenders? You have! Who can't wait to put his or her career on the fast track? You can! Ref: T12066

IP/IT PATENT

Birmingham To £100,000
This is a great chance for you to join the IP department at one of the country's leading firms. If you are a senior IP or patent lawyer with a mixed contentious and non-contentious background, then your future is not only bright, it's green for you. Ref: T7750

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

To £55,000
If we offered you — a commercial property lawyer with 2-5 years' ppe — the chance to work for a top class client base on a broad range of matters in the property department at one of the City's top 10 firms, could you possibly say no? No, of course you could not. Ref: T13940

BANKING/SECURITIES

Hong Kong To HK\$Excellent
Have you seen the flood of English lawyers coming home from Hong Kong worried about next year's hand over? Neither have we. Instead they know the good life is set to party on, and the major investment bank needs a banking or securities lawyer with 2-4 years' ppe to join the fun. Ref: T29410

INSOLVENCY

To £63,000
What do you get if you join one of the largest and best departments of one of the City's largest and best firms? The chance to be one of the largest and best names in the business. Top 10 City firm offers a career boost to an insolvency lawyer with 1-5 years' ppe in mainly non-contentious work. Ref: T24898

PRIVATE CLIENT

West Country To £Excellent
Working in the City isn't all you thought it would be, is it? Especially for a private client lawyer. But it's not too late to do something about it and this top West country firm can help you out. It needs a private client lawyer with 0-1 year ppe to take on quality work and a good quality of life. Ref: T1987

CONSTRUCTION

To £45,000
Where better to build your career as a construction lawyer than at one of the City's top construction practices? A chance like this comes at the right time for a lawyer with 2-4 years' ppe who wants to take the express elevator to the partnership floor. Ref: T19681

ENTERTAINMENT

Light, camera, action — your career is just about to roll. The set is one of London's top entertainment firms, with particular music industry expertise. The plot soon is in need of a senior entertainment lawyer who wants the freedom to develop his practice. The star? You and your following. Ref: T10926

SHIPPING LITIGATION

To £38,000
If you are a newly qualified or 2-3 year qualified shipping lawyer interested in joining a niche practice on its maiden voyage then this is the opportunity for you. This firm can offer high calibre work in a close-knit environment with real partnership prospects. Ref: T28180

CO/CO INFORMATION OFFICER

To £35,000
Here's something a little different and it could just be the move for a company/commercial lawyer with at least 3 years' ppe who fancies getting away from the hurly burly. Top 15 City firm needs you to become its information officer: co-ordinating know-how and best practice. Ref: T29388

INSURANCE/CONSTRUCTION LIT.

To £42,000
Your career will really take off if you join this top 10 international City firm. An explosive future awaits a litigator with 1-3 years' ppe who wants to work on insurance claims in the construction industry. Excellent partnership prospects. Ref: T29439

CO/CO PROJECT FINANCE

To £Above City
The facts of this job are plain. Come fly with the telecoms and aviation practice of this major US firm's London office if you want your career to soar away. All you need is 0-3 years' ppe in co/co generally or project finance, as well as your head in the clouds for the perfect landing. Ref: T27535

PROJECT FINANCE

To £50,000
Your career has not reached a dead end, instead it is about to flourish at this top 15 City firm with a reputation for great work and a great workplace. This is the move for a project finance lawyer with 2-4 years' ppe in energy, construction or telecoms. Ref: T21878

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Birmingham To £V.Competitive
The proof of the improving property market is in the advertising of the top property jobs. And this top Birmingham firm currently poses the point. Such is its workload that it has immediate need of property lawyers with 1-2 and 3-5 years' ppe who want to have their career take off and succeed. Ref: T24444

OVERSEAS & NATIONWIDE Practice In-House

► EC Lawyer

Our client is a City firm with a secure foothold in the CIS market. They need to recruit an EC/Corporate lawyer on a 2 year contract to cover emerging markets matters. You must have some knowledge of Russian. Ref: T17201

► Plot Sales/Legal Exec.

Central & Gtr London
Qualified legal executives with plot sales experience are currently required by these busy practices to undertake high volume work for large, high profile clients. Ref: T59/2888JF

► Litigation Assistant

London, EC2
This medium sized City firm is looking for an ambitious 2-4 years qualified commercial litigator with experience of professional indemnity cases to work in its thriving litigation practice. Ref: T12JF

► Employment-Contentious - NQ

London, EC2
If you are newly qualified solicitor with experience in employment litigation and would like a position covering a wide range of employment issues, this firm would like to hear from you. High court and Industrial Tribunal experience would be an advantage. Ref: T13JF

► Patent Litigation

London
This medium sized City firm with an excellent specialist intellectual property department needs a c.4 year qualified patent specialist to join a friendly team. Ref: T27JUL

► Private Client Lawyer - Junior

London
This large WC1 firm is looking to recruit a junior (c. 1-2 year qualified) lawyer to undertake a generalist role within its small, busy private client unit. Ref: T33JUL

► Newly Qualified

Essex
A position exists within the Basildon office of this busy Essex practice for a bright and ambitious residential conveyancer to undertake a heavy caseload. Ref: T05AF

► Partner Level

Thames Valley
We have an opportunity for a senior corporate solicitor to join the Thames Valley office of this successful and high profile practice, acting for 'blue chip' clients but away from the bustle of the City. Ref: T2871AF

Moscow

This multinational transatlantic manufacturer seeks 3 co/coun lawyers, 2 to 7 years qualified, to provide advice throughout Europe, the Middle East & Africa. Ref: T36NT

► Commercial & IP

Brussels
This leading international UK based company has an opportunity for a 2 to 3 year qualified lawyer, ideally with IP exposure and language skills to join a team. Ref: T264SNM

► International Counsel

The Netherlands
A 3 to 5 year qualified commercial lawyer is sought by this well known European multinational to handle a broad international role based at the worldwide headquarters. Ref: T1047NT

► Banking - Household Name

London
This well known US multinational needs a high calibre solicitor, 2 to 4 years qualified, to assist the General Counsel on a range of international banking matters. Ref: T2901RN

► European Role for NQ

Berks
This successful and rapidly expanding US corporation requires a newly to 6 month qualified solicitor to handle a European commercial role. Languages are a advantage. Ref: T025NT

► Legal Counsel - Derivatives

London
This prestigious European investment bank has an outstanding opportunity for a high calibre derivatives lawyer, at least 3 years qualified, to handle an international role. Ref: T153NT

► Construction Lawyers

West Midlands & Surrey
We currently have 2 clients who require lawyers with between 1 and 5 years experience in construction law, gained either in-house or from a well known law firm. Ref: T290RN & T290RN

► Senior Property Lawyer

Bucks
A well known development company is looking for a lawyer, at least 5 years qualified, with land acquisition experience to assume responsibility for this area. Ref: T285RN

► Three Commercial Roles - IT

Berks & Middlesex
This leading international computer company has three opportunities for lawyers between 1 and 4 years qualified to handle UK and overseas work. Ref: T263SNM & T264SNM

Contact Daniel Lewis, Jane Foster or Andre Field

Contact Naveen Tull or Rachael North



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MAINLAND EUROPE OPPORTUNITY

Specialist Legislation

An unusual opportunity has arisen for a lawyer with specialist legislative drafting skills to relocate to mainland Europe. The role, working with a prestigious European firm, will involve drafting legislation in a wide variety of areas including transposing EU legislation.

The lawyer sought will have a minimum of 10 years' ppe which must include specialist drafting experience of legislation and related regulations. The ideal candidate will be a lawyer who has worked in a government legal department or a law firm specialising in this field.

The contract will initially be for a minimum of 6 months. It is highly likely that the candidate will have the option to extend. The salary package will be highly competitive and accommodation will be provided.

Our Client is seeking to fill this post urgently. Written applications should be submitted to Andrew Golding or Jonathan Macrae at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax: 0171 247 5174. E-mail: andy@zmb.co.uk. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 25th September.

ZARAK
MACRAE
BRENNER

ZMB

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

This major fund management company seeks an additional lawyer for its legal team based in London. The company is part of an international financial services group and manages a substantial portfolio of assets for both UK and overseas clients.

The lawyer sought will probably be a corporate, commercial or finance lawyer either in a large City or other commercial law firm or a well regarded in-house team with approximately 1-3 years' post qualification experience. You will be seeking a generalist in-house role in a young, non-hierarchical team where there will be a variety of work, manageable working hours and a competitive salary and benefits package.

The work is international and challenging including contract drafting and negotiation, dealing with day to day enquiries, advising on regulatory issues, liaising with foreign lawyers and providing practical solutions to business and management problems. You will also manage external lawyers.

You should be bright, capable and with a good sense of humour to enable you to thrive in this forward looking organisation. The company will support your continuing education and training and will offer you excellent career prospects within a profitable and dynamic business.

For further information please contact Sally Horrocks on 0171-377 0510 (0171-995 3396 evenings/weekends) or write to her at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax: 0171-247 5174. E-mail: sally@zmb.co.uk. Written applications including full CV and salary details must arrive before close of business Friday 20th September 1996.

ZARAK
MACRAE
BRENNER

ZMB

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SOUTH WEST TO £42,000

An upsurge in activity has created an immediate need for quality Commercial Property lawyers within several top flight South West firms. Demonstrating proven technical skills and commercial acumen, candidates 2 years PQE+ will be looking forward to joining a robust department offering quality caseload, serious client contact and real potential for career development. Excellent prospects.

Contact Ian Harvey.

FAMILY/MATRIMONIAL SOUTH WEST TO £35,000

Long established and fully Franchised practice seeks Family/Matrimonial specialist 1-4 years PQE to join committed, yet relaxed department. Quality caseload will include Divorce & Financial with expected emphasis on Childcare matters. The position carries with it both excellent earning and career potential with an idyllic location, boasting superb quality of life.

Contact Ian Harvey.

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE SOUTH WEST TO £30,000

We currently have instructions from leading professional negligence firms seeking to expand their specialist departments. Their vacancies encompass the full range of professional negligence work and require solicitors from PQ level upwards from both the plaintiff and defendant corners, who can demonstrate excellent previous litigation experience combined with a robust and self-confident personality. Successful candidates will be rewarded with a supportive working environment, structured career progression and an attractive remuneration package.

Contact Simon Scott.

EMPLOYMENT SOUTH WEST TO £27,000

Nationally-regarded commercial practice seeks Employment specialist 1-3 years PQE to bolster its top-flight department. The post will entail contentious and non-contentious work, from TUPE to TUREDA and EAT. Headed by one of the UK's leading employment specialists, the department boasts a clientele second to none. If you can demonstrate excellent technical and communication skills and a flair for advocacy, you will find this a stimulating and rewarding role, guaranteed to stretch your talent. Excellent salary and prospects.

Contact Simon Scott.

CRIMINAL LITIGATION NO SOUTH EAST TO £22,000

Leading South-East practice, fully Franchised and with a strong litigation department, has created a career opportunity for a self-motivated, newly qualified. Trained in Legal Aid litigation, with emphasis on criminal law, you will offer developing Advocacy skills, a keen interest in this area of work and full commitment to client service. You will benefit from encouragement to build your own caseload and chambers, with continued training from a well-known specialist in criminal litigation.

Contact Clio Demetriades.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SOUTH EAST TO £28,000

Pre-eminent Provincial practice based-up by a busy London office, has created a career opportunity for young Commercial Property solicitor 1-2 years PQE. Keen to join a successful and motivated team, you will benefit from a competitive business environment which allows for extensive direct client contact and your own varied caseload. Clients include institutions as well as medium and larger sized companies, with full range of property/transactional work.

Contact Clio Demetriades.

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL SOUTH EAST TO £26,000

With 3-4 yrs PQE in London/leading Provincial practice in Corporate or Commercial (or both) you are in a unique position. Just about every leading firm, as well as many of the medium-sized practices outside London are seeking talented, business-minded solicitors. Many posts will lead swiftly to Partnership. All provide career progression at a speed which leaves most City firms standing, as well as surprisingly attractive levels of remuneration.

Contact Clio Demetriades.

PLAINTIFF PI SOUTH EAST TO £32,000

Well-organised, leading Provincial practice has created role for experienced specialist (2-4 yrs PQE) to work in profitable and growing team. Good quality caseload, planned career progression and opportunity to work alongside a senior player in this field. This franchised, quality-driven practice demands high standards and client service, and rewards with a range of benefits. An urgent vacancy, providing an immediate, busy caseload.

Contact Clio Demetriades.

Legal Opportunities, 87 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1BD. Tel: 0171 404 9966 Fax: 0171 404 9955.



Shell International Limited

London

The Shell Group operates in more than 120 countries and its global turnover is now £95 billion.

It now requires an additional intellectual property lawyer to join its established Intellectual Property Division. Based in Central London, you will be responsible for a broad range of primarily non-contentious IP work. Particular emphasis will be placed on negotiating, drafting and advising on agreements with a predominantly IP character, such as secrecy agreements, licence agreements and (joint) R&D agreements. Your input will also be sought on IP aspects of mergers, acquisitions or disposals.

As well as working to the highest professional standards, you should be able to communicate effectively with all levels of management and play a role in multi-disciplined business teams. The business is global and you should be willing to travel. You will discover that the Intellectual Property Division is a

Intellectual Property

3-6 yrs ppe

challenging and stimulating environment where you will be encouraged to work independently on major transactions. Team-work, communication and negotiation skills and the ability to understand a variety of businesses are important ingredients.

You will have a consistently good academic background and have between 3-6 years relevant ppe gained in-house or with a leading law firm. A technical background would be an advantage. Remuneration, including a wide range of benefits, will be highly competitive.

Shell are committed to providing equal opportunities to everyone and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Interested candidates should send their CVs to Daniel Richards at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH, fax 0171 831 6662, or telephone him on 0171 269 2240.



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COMMERCIAL LAWYER

News Digital Systems

Media Technology

Television broadcasting is undergoing a significant transformation, involving the use of digital technology by broadcasters.

News Digital Systems Limited is part of the international media and communications group, the News Corporation. It is one of the world's leading providers of digital technology to satellite and other broadcasters. Capitalising on its reputation and research and development expertise, the company is growing rapidly and has an impressive share of the market with customers such as BSkyB and Reuters in the UK, DIRECTV in the US and Star TV in the Far East.

The company now requires a lawyer to be

based at the UK headquarters. You should be between 2 and 4 years qualified with commercial experience in the IT field, gained either in-house or from private practice. An interest in technology, self-motivation, and excellent drafting and communication skills are essential. This is a challenging opportunity involving overseas travel and an excellent package is on offer including a company car, pension and medical benefits.

For further information please contact our advising consultants, Naveen Tuli or Laurence Simons personally. This assignment is being handled exclusively and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to Laurence Simons International.



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SOLE LEGAL COUNSEL



SINGAPORE BASED

NCR is a market leading US multinational and the recently demerged high technology division of AT&T. Operating in the retail, financial services and communications sectors, NCR has successfully combined a global business with highly focused local operations in each of its territories. The company has a turnover approaching US\$9 billion and employs over 40,000 people worldwide.

There is now an exceptional opportunity for a business minded lawyer to be based in the Singapore office providing corporate and commercial advice to all NCR operations within the region which encompasses Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India, the Philippines, Vietnam, Burma etc.

This is a high profile and challenging role involving general advice on commercial law including sales contracts, contractual alliances,

employment law and working as part of the management team on strategic issues.

You will be a high calibre international lawyer qualified in any jurisdiction with between 5 and 10 years experience in commercial law, ideally gained from a major multinational. Previous experience of working in or with the Far East and Asia is a distinct advantage. You should have a strong personality with a practical and "hands-on" approach and be willing to undertake extensive travel.

If you are interested in this opportunity and would like further information, please contact our advising consultants, Naveen Tuli or Laurence Simons personally. This assignment is being handled exclusively and any applications sent direct will be forwarded to Laurence Simons International.



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Commercial Lawyer

Glasgow

ScottishPower is the UK's leading multi-utility, following the successful acquisitions of Manweb in 1995 and Southern Water in August of this year, the group has 3 million customers, 14,000 employees and a turnover in excess of £3 billion.

The ScottishPower group supplies electricity, gas, water, telecoms, specialist technologies and electrical contracting expertise. In addition, it is one of the UK's biggest electrical retailers. It also means that we can offer an unmatched commercial law career - where you will work closely with the group Legal Director on a wide spectrum of commercial and corporate issues. The role as legal advisor and personal assistant to the group Legal Director is within our Law and Risk Management team, and to succeed you should have a minimum of 2 years' post-qualification experience - gained within either a

Excellent salary + benefits

leading private practice or the Corporate and Commercial department of a blue chip company. Ideally, you should have a Scottish legal qualification and a knowledge of the regulatory framework applicable to privatised industries, although we are happy to consider your application should you not meet these criteria. You will certainly need to be a clear, confident communicator, and have the self-motivation to become an integral member of this newly formed team.

In return, we are offering a highly competitive salary and benefits package, together with the opportunity to progress with a rapidly expanding company. You will also enjoy a unique working environment in our prestigious headquarters in Atlantic Quay - not to mention travelling throughout the UK and potentially overseas.



ScottishPower

To apply, please send a comprehensive CV including details of your current salary, to Jane MacAskill, ScottishPower Human Resources, 75 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 7BD.

Company Secretary

£70,000 + Bonus + Benefits

London

Our client is a highly individual and successful public company. Following a period of sustained growth and performance, a high calibre Company Secretary is required to join a highly motivated management team.

The Role

- Organise and arrange meetings of the main and non-executive boards, liaise with board members, taking minutes of relevant meetings.
- All formal Company Secretarial functions, monitoring and maintaining all board confidential records. Provide counsel and advice as appropriate on a wide range of issues.
- Responsibility for all company insurance, pensions and any other fiscal or legal requirements.

The Requirement

- Qualified Corporate Lawyer and/or Company Secretary, ideally aged early to mid 30's. They will be able to demonstrate high technical capability, yellow book and M&A experience.
- Robust, commercially aware team player, who is capable of operating at board level and being part of a dynamic and dedicated management team.
- Excellent communications and diplomacy skills combined with a desire and ability to get involved in a range of management and special projects.

If you believe you have the required background and appetite for this outstanding opportunity, please send a current CV including daytime telephone number and salary details to the advising consultants at Harvey Nash PLC, 13 Bruton Street, London W1X 7AH. (Tel: 0171 333 0033, Fax: 0171 333 0032.) Please quote reference number HNF1535T. You may also apply via http://taps.com/Harvey_Nash

HARVEY NASH PLC



LONDON

Unique among medium-sized Central London law firms, our successful, entrepreneurial client boasts an international clientbase and presence together with an established domestic practice and reputation, with clients including national institutions, plc's and foreign and UK owned private companies. Continued expansion of the firm's domestic practice has created the following new positions:

HEAD of COMPANY/COMMERCIAL (UK) Partner

Offering an exceptional opportunity to tap into the existing corporate clientbase this role will suit a dynamic, ambitious partner (aged 35-45) combining technical expertise with a genuine flair for marketing and practice development.

TAX SPECIALIST

4 years' + PQE

Working unsupervised (but as part of the team) this role offers access to corporate and private clients and to domestic and international tax matters. A steady flow of new work together with existing matters will ensure a varied, challenging caseload.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

For further information regarding either position please contact Simon Janion on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/weekends: 0181 674 3971) or write to me at Eagan Janion Recruitment Ltd, 6 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DJ. (Fax: 0171 404 0469).

EAGAN JANION

CFP LONDON

CITY
Leading City firm with a focused and team orientated property department seeks an additional lawyer with 2-4 years' PQE. Your caseload should currently involve dealing with large institutions and corporate clients and you should have experience of major development projects. An intelligent and ambitious approach are essential for a role, which, whilst challenging, will offer an early route to partnership. Ref: T/013770.

CITY
What do you admire about your own firm? Is it its young innovative outlook, its lack of complacency about their position in the market place or their desire to share their success as a team? If perhaps your expectations exceed those of your firm, consider this—a firm which offers all of the above in addition to a premier portfolio of national and international clients with expertise in all areas including securitisation and a genuinely meretricious approach to partnership. If you are tired of waiting in the wings, possess 4-7 years' experience with a major player and have no desire to jump from the frying pan into the fire, consider a firm whose vision of success is truly admirable. Ref: T/014889.

CITY
As a 2-4 year lawyer within the information technology unit of a leading practice, you will be well aware that any career move will have a critical bearing on your long term career prospects. You are ambitious but are not prepared to sacrifice quality of work for a rapid rise to partnership. Our medium sized client is uniquely positioned to combine exceptional work and senior firm resources as is keen to recruit an additional team member who is hungry for early progress. You will handle a full range of M&A's, infrastructure, compliance, procurement and interconnect issues on behalf of household name IT clients. Who says you can't have your cake and eat it? Ref: T/014777.

Above is a small representative sample of some of the vacancies we have registered with us from law firms throughout the UK. For more information on our services telephone us or alternatively write to us at 4 Bloomsbury Place, LONDON WC1A 2QA; 11 Newhall Street, BIRMINGHAM B3 1SF; 22 Deansgate, MANCHESTER M3 1PH; 31-33 Corn Street, BRISTOL BS1 1HT; or 32 Sovereign Street, LEEDS LS1 4BJ. All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence. We do not and never have sent out candidates' CV's without their permission. Only Charles Fellowes are able to keep a Watching Brief® on your career.

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BRISTOL Tel: 0117 930 4644
BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121-200 3363
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Charles Fellowes Partnership

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY LAWYER ASIA PACIFIC

Outstanding Remuneration Package

Our Client is a key division of one of the world's largest vertically integrated energy companies, with revenues of \$9.2 billion per annum, world wide assets of \$14 billion and a 19% compound annual growth rate in earnings over the last five years.

A pivotal sector of the group's global operations, our Client is pursuing a progressive merchant business strategy in the Asia Pacific region and now seeks to appoint its first lawyer for the region, to join a rapidly expanding business team. You will work closely with senior management and advise on all aspects of the division's projects and commercial ventures in the region, which include energy infrastructure development, the purchase, sale and processing of energy commodities, energy industry financing transactions and risk management activities.

You will be a senior assistant solicitor or partner in private practice or already work with a leading energy company and have gained considerable high level expertise in energy projects/trading matters. Critically, you will have had experience of practising in the Far East and be capable of working independently in the region.

In return, you will be offered excellent career opportunities and, as you can see, an outstanding salary, bonus and benefits package.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams or Stephen Rodney on 0171-405 6062 (0171-266 5601 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Commerce & Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail greg@qdc.demon.co.uk



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Deputy Company Secretary/Solicitor

Cheshire

Our client is a well-established plc which has recently undertaken a programme of restructuring and investment in order to create a more focused and cohesive group of businesses. The Group holds a leading position in each of its markets, backed by strong brand names synonymous with high quality. The Group encompasses an international spread of businesses with a number of production facilities outside the UK. Improved profitability and a strengthened balance sheet have left the Group well placed to expand and build on its overseas interests.

A unique opportunity now exists at the new Head Office for an ambitious, young, commercially-minded solicitor to take responsibility for the company-secretarial and legal function. This position reports to the Commercial Director and candidates should have three to five years' post-qualified experience, with strong academic qualifications and the capacity to learn quickly. Sound technical experience in company and commercial law is required, and familiarity with Stock Exchange regulatory requirements is desirable.

This is a pivotal role and represents an excellent career-development opportunity for a solicitor possessing strong interpersonal skills, drive and initiative and the ability to establish a rapport with all levels of management. In return a comprehensive remuneration package is offered.

To discuss this opportunity in complete confidence, please telephone Gill Newman BA (Hons), quoting reference 32153. Alternatively, send your CV to her at the address below. First-round interviews will be held in London and Manchester.

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Practice Manager

Solicitor's Department

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Central London

Our major client is the Commissioner. When legal proceedings are taken against the Metropolitan Police Service, they are normally brought against the Commissioner. We provide a professional and cost effective legal service ranging from civil actions, employment law, sex and race discrimination, through to police discipline and licensing.

This is a newly-created position. The Practice Manager is the financial and administrative manager of the Department and, with the senior management team, will play a full part in both day-to-day and long term strategic planning.

Your input will shape the direction of the Department. We will look to you to develop best working practices, to steer the IT programme, to monitor and plan budgets and expenditure and to report financial performance to the Solicitor. You will also manage a team, develop the time recording system, check output and performance and provide logistical support to lawyers and support staff. More generally, if you think we can do things better in any area of finance or administration, we will expect you to put theory into practice.

Finance and resource management and general administration experience is essential. So too is the ability to put effective

financial systems in place and develop the Department's IT capabilities. We are also looking for confidence and diplomacy to work at a senior level within the Service, excellent written and verbal communication and an efficient, 'can-do' approach to business. Knowledge of legal practice and an accounting, business or management qualification would be an advantage.

The appointment is offered on a 3 year fixed term contract which may be extended by mutual agreement. The rewards package is highly competitive and includes a salary of up to £39,580 on entry (inclusive of London Weighting Allowance and depending on experience), generous holiday entitlement and a non-contributory pension scheme.

If you want to join a department with a very high profile, please contact Sue Gilson on 0171 230 2413 for an information pack. Completed forms should be returned to the Metropolitan Police Service, Personnel Department, Room LG12, 105 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AN.

Closing date: 11th October 1996.
The Metropolitan Police Service is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all staff regardless of sex, marital status, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, religion or disability.

You should be a British or Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Irish Republic or a national of any state within the European Economic Area and should normally have lived in the UK or EEA for the past three years.

METROPOLITAN
POLICE

Commercial Lawyer

Cheshire

Highly competitive package

As the second largest issuer of bank credit cards in the world, and the largest issuer of bank affinity cards, MBNA has an impressive record of growth and success, directly attributable to the calibre of its people. MBNA International Bank Ltd with its headquarters in Cheshire, was established in November 1983 to set up the European operation.

Just as important for you is the emphasis on legal counsel throughout the business. We are looking for a qualified Lawyer with an impressive post qualification track record of between two and four years, not only to advise on legal issues, but also to make a strategic input into many commercial decisions.

Joining a highly valued legal team, you will take on a caseload of general commercial matters with an emphasis on commercial agreements and computer contracts.

Assuming a good deal of responsibility, whilst working as part of the team, you will work closely with senior management, providing an opportunity to make a contribution to wider business decisions.

The highly competitive salary, together with a comprehensive benefits package, is on offer to ensure that we attract the highest level of professional expertise. Full relocation assistance will be provided, where appropriate.

If you are interested in this outstanding opportunity, please contact John Sacco on 0161-839 5791 or 01625 520842 (evenings/weekends). Alternatively please forward a full CV to him at In-House Legal, 26 Cross Street, Manchester M2 7AF. Fax: 0161-839 1375.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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A HARRISON WILLIS GROUP COMPANY

Banking Lawyer

LONDON EXCELLENT PACKAGE

The Société Générale group in London provides investment banking services to corporate and institutional clients including coverage of the securities, derivatives and fixed income markets, corporate finance and broking services as well as general and highly structured commercial banking products. Our legal department interacts with all of these business areas providing creative and commercial solutions for a wide range of legal issues.

As part of our continued expansion we are looking to recruit an experienced securities lawyer to join our small, dynamic legal team. The role will be diverse, mainly servicing the Equities, Derivatives and Fixed Income Divisions but could also encompass general commercial banking products such as project finance, leasing, litigation and employment law issues.

Candidates should have at least 4 years' ppe in either a top law firm or investment bank, be a committed team player with the maturity and confidence to establish credibility quickly in what is a dynamic and truly international organisation. We value our lawyers both for their individual and team contributions and can offer an excellent remuneration and benefits package. In all, this will be an outstanding career move.



Société Générale is regulated by the Securities & Futures Authority



For further information in complete confidence please contact Rebecca Errington or Deborah Dufleish (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-357 0912 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Commerce & Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EP. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Douglas - all third party applications will be forwarded to QD for consideration.

With 45,000 employees worldwide, 2000 branches in France and 500 outlets in more than 70 countries, Société Générale, international banking group is active in every sector of banking and finance.

Employment & Employee Benefits

Midlands & North

Our client is one of the country's largest firms of Chartered Accountants and Management Consultants with offices in every major UK city. The practice continues to lead in its field by recruiting and developing individuals of the highest calibre; people with imagination and flair, integrity and professionalism. As a result of this expansion, the firm seeks to recruit two solicitors to handle a diverse range of consultancy matters within the employment and employee benefits field:

• Based in Birmingham covering the Midlands • Based in Leeds or Manchester covering the North

The work will involve advising on a wide range of employment and remuneration issues and will include the development of products, bespoke packages and their subsequent implementation. The principal areas of work will be:

• Employment Structures • Employment Law • Share Schemes

Experience in other areas including work permits, termination awards, PRP and pensions would also be useful.

You will be a solicitor with at least 5 years relevant ppe working in private practice or industry. There will be immediate and substantial client contact requiring an individual with sound commercial acumen and marketing flair, along with the ability to get on with people at all levels.

In return the firm offers a most generous remuneration package including car, excellent training and a genuine "ground-floor opportunity" for the successful candidate, all within a positive and forward thinking environment.

To discuss this position further please telephone 0121-200 3363 or write to Charles Fellowes Partnership, Newwater House, 11 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 3NY quoting reference 014665. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Charles Fellowes Partnership

LONDON BIRMINGHAM LEEDS MANCHESTER BRISTOL

CHALLENGING SENIOR SECRETARIAT POSTS

Major plc secretariat

Our client is a substantial public company and a major player in its sector. About to enter an exciting new phase of its development, two capable professionals are needed to join the small and high calibre company secretariat team.

ASSISTANT COMPANY SECRETARY
£40,000 + car + attractive benefits

You will support the Deputy Secretary in the provision of the complete range of company secretarial services required by a major plc, understanding the complex commercial and regulatory environment in which it operates. You will liaise directly with directors and your remit will include Stock Exchange and Companies Act compliance, work for board meetings, dealing positively with corporate governance/regulatory changes and assisting with the management of the departmental budget and significant external resources. You will also act as company secretary to certain subsidiary companies. Ref: 60579.

SECRETARIAT MANAGER
£30,000 + car + attractive benefits

You will support the full range of the Secretary's responsibilities, specifically to include preparatory/look-up work for board meetings, the secretariat of certain subsidiary companies, best practice monitoring on corporate governance and related issues, Stock Exchange and Companies Act compliance, liaison with the company's external registrars, plus commercial routines and ad hoc projects. Ref: 60581.

Location - West of London (M4/M25 area) for both roles.

These positions require strong technical backgrounds in company secretarial work, supported by an appropriate professional qualification and preferably a degree. Previous listed company experience is essential for the Assistant Company Secretary's post and desirable for the Secretariat Manager. You must be computer literate and will have finely tuned communication skills, self motivation, commercial awareness and the ability to respond quickly and flexibly in a busy non-hierarchical team.

The successful candidates will be offered attractive remuneration packages to include a car. Relocation assistance is available in appropriate cases.

Please write, in confidence, with full career and salary details to Sue Matheson or Graham Campbell, MSL International Limited, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL. Please quote the appropriate reference.

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INTERNATIONAL

LONDON

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RACING: CLASSIC-WINNING TRAINER ADVOCATES ABOLITION OF SIX-STROKE TRIGGER MECHANISM AS DEBATE GATHERS PACE

Change of tactics needed for whip rule

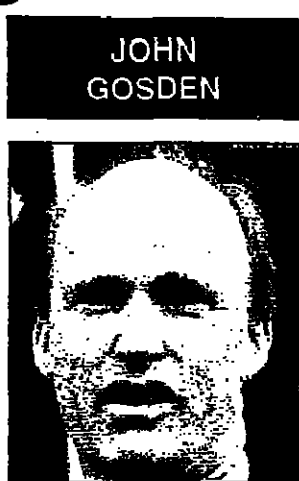
The well-intended whip rules have improved race riding and removed abuse of horses — but they will continue making a mockery of racing until it is changed.

Frankie Dettori and Pat Eddery, who were both suspended for misuse of the whip after their fantastic finish on Shantou and Dushyantor respectively in the St Leger at Doncaster on Saturday, are top-class athletes and artists. We are not talking about rough horse riders, but great jockeys who also happen to love thoroughbreds. As a trainer, I would not consider employing anyone if I felt he was in any way cruel or vicious with horses. I would never put anyone like that on a horse.

You can damage a horse that is struggling and going backwards, but you don't harm one who is going forward positively in a race. I used to work with Noel Murless and Vincent O'Brien and horses ridden by Lester Piggott who, supposedly, received hard rides, used to come out of their races in very good order. They did not lie down like abused creatures.

Shantou, who was hit 13 times by Dettori in the closing stages of the St Leger, ate up all his food and was bounding and jumping when he got home. He was not bruised and yesterday morning he was in such high spirits he even tried to get his rider off. He's full of himself and a happy horse, not an animal that has been cruelly punished.

A lot of the whip rules are well written and make considerable sense but the problem comes when a whip has been used six times or more and racecourse stewards are required to consider holding an inquiry. They are pressured to do it. Obviously, the answer is for the stewards to be given more discretion and to be allowed to use their judgment. That means doing away with the six-hit trigger mechanism. In a finish to a great race,



JOHN GOSDEN
On an unfair dilemma facing jockeys

such as the St Leger on Saturday, we are doing serious damage to racing by ending up with suspensions. It is terrific theatre at Doncaster but the rules mean we are saying the script is wrong. We are shooting ourselves in the foot.

It is grossly unfair to put jockeys into a Catch 22 situation where they are damned if they do and damned if they don't. In a finish like the St Leger, what are the jockeys supposed to do half a barrow from the winning line? Put their sticks down and ride them out with hands and heels? Dettori and Eddery did not pick up their sticks until late on.

I have seen riders hit a horse just three times but hurt it, whereas some like Dettori or Willie Carson can use the whip a dozen times, flicking it forward and propelling it to get a horse to extend its stride — but as the rule stands the wrong person gets hauled in front of the stewards. Dettori uses the whip in the backhand position so he cannot hit with enormous force.

When I worked in the United States I found a lot of riders were vicious and hit horses too often and too hard with the stick — but over there they get called in if they do not



Dettori, left, and Eddery produce a classic finish in the St Leger but were punished with whip bans

hit horses enough in a race. That is the irony of the situation.

The whip rules governing British racing present our riders with an unfair dilemma. I am sure that was not the intention when they were drawn up, but in practice that happens when it comes to the big races — and it will continue until it is changed.

By doing away with the six-stroke rule, there might be

some stewarding inconsistencies, but it would help if we had some officials appointed who understood race riding and horses. In Britain we do not seem to have former jockeys as stipendiary stewards as they do in Australia, the United States and Hong Kong. That is regrettable.

At Doncaster, everyone was talking about two of the greatest rides of the year and yet the two jockeys involved were

hauled up before the stewards, in the same way the three jockeys who fought out the finish of the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket in May were called in and suspended.

The rule is flawed and must be put right. If the Jockey Club puts its heads into the sand, they will be doing themselves and racing an enormous disservice.

Old's stable fire, page 3

Vets believe that Jockey Club is on the right lines

By ROBERT WRIGHT

USE of the whip is an emotive subject in racing. The judgment of owners, trainers, jockeys and punters may be clouded by financial considerations, while people outside the sport can be accused of not fully understanding it.

However, a veterinary surgeon has no axe to grind. He cares above all for the wellbeing of the thoroughbred, but also understands that it is bred for a purpose.

Tony Warr, a vet of 12 years experience now based at Pad-dock Wood in Kent, has worked both at the racecourse and in racing stables. He also rides in point-to-points and hunter chases.

"I feel very strongly about whip abuse. I'd shivered up in shame if I ever marked a horse I was riding in a point-to-point," he said.

"The rules as they stand are a reasonable compromise. Problems may arise if they are not used consistently. Whilst we have to protect the horses, there is no easy answer. It is a very complex business."

The Jockey Club changed the whip specifications at the start of this year, with a view to lessening its impact. The whips now used are .68cm long, including the flap at the end, and have a minimum diameter of 1cm.

As National Hunt jockeys are heavier and stronger than their Flat counterparts, they have to use whips with a felt-covered flap, which lessens its impact. However, Warr does not believe that this is necessarily a help. "Although the National Hunt whips have been designed to have softer edges, the other side of the coin is that a horse can be hit harder without marking it," he said.

David Ellis, a partner in a veterinary practice in New-

market, is also well placed to see both sides of the argument.

"To the person that does not know much about racing it may seem cruel, but I don't think it's harmful or inhumane. I know that the Jockey Club maintains a close liaison with the RSPCA on the subject," Ellis said. "In my experience it is unusual for horses to be hurt by the whip. I have rarely seen horses with weals caused by it."

The Jockey Club's director of regulation, Malcolm Wallace, described the whip rule as being "under constant review". "If we haven't got it right, how can we make it better and still prevent horses from appearing to be abused? If we have it wrong, and somebody can come up with a better way of policing it, then I absolutely guarantee that it will be looked at."

Whilst recognising that the rules are likely to be flouted when stakes are high, Wallace discounted suggestions that the rules could be amended for big races. "If a rule is in place, there is no chance of it being relaxed for major races."

"The rule was introduced to stop jockeys flogging horses and means the stewards have to take a view on whether a horse is being abused or could be perceived as being abused. If they don't take action, racing is brought into disrepute by jockeys appearing to hit horses far too much, but when the newspapers are full of headlines over whip bans, you are bringing racing into disrepute anyway."

Wallace, together with the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee chairman Christopher Hall and senior stewards' secretary Patrick Hibbert-Foy, will this week watch film of the St Leger finish.

YARMOUTH

2.35 State Approval 4.15 Portlet
3.10 BINT SHADAYD (nap) 4.45 Lucky Revenge
3.45 Saheel 5.20 Lucky Oakwood

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.10 Bint Shadayd, 3.45 Saheel.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.35 BROOK CLAIMING STAKES

(3-Y-O: £3,207; 1m 3f 10yd) (14 runners)

1	(7) 20344 BALLOON 13 (G) (A. Soderstrom) R. Hanson 9-7	R. Pichard 91
2	(11) 00003 TIME FOR TEA 18 (G) (C. O'Connell) C. O'Connell 9-2	L. Dettori 86
3	(10) 00015 STATE APPROVAL 22 (F) (M. A. Jones) A. Jones 9-13	C. Carter 77
4	(10) 42233 TIME 17 (G) (D. W. O'Brien) D. W. O'Brien 9-7	D. W. O'Brien 97
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2018: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

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4.15 BRIAN TAYLOR MEMORIAL HANDICAP

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2007: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2008: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2009: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2010: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2011: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2012: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2013: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2014: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2015: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2016: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2017: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2018: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2019: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2020: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2021: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2022: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2023: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2024: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2025: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2026: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2027: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2028: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2029: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2030: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2031: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2032: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2033: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2034: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2035: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2036: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2037: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2038: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2039: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2040: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2041: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2042: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2043: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2044: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson, 12-1 others.

2045: FRESH LUCK 3-4 R. Hanson, 4-1 R. Hanson, 10-1 R. Hanson

That's life: there's no getting away from it

No man is an island but uncounted numbers of men would live on one given half a chance. I have never understood the attraction of some off-shore outcrop from which civilisation is a distant glow in the sky; for me, remoteness is an occasional indulgence, not a full-time job.

So I approached last night's *Cutting Edge: Paradise Island* (Channel 4) with a sense of dread. Here, on the face of it, was another documentary about people who had deluded themselves that the perfect life was a place, rather than a state of mind. Au contraire. This was a fascinating documentary with elements of Gothic drama, in which the apparently normal inexorably unfolded into a strange tale with dark undertones.

A seven-line classified advertisement placed in *The Sunday Times* two years ago by Tony and Lyn Craig invited people willing to contribute £150,000 to join them in

establishing a community on a tropical island. There were more than 500 replies.

Among them were Su and Chris Bradley, she a designer, he an accountant. Early in the programme Chris Bradley said something that went to the heart of the fallacy which afflicts potential escapers: "The essence of the whole thing was the breakdown of law and order. We're in a community now where the greatest business opportunity for the entrepreneur must be considered crime."

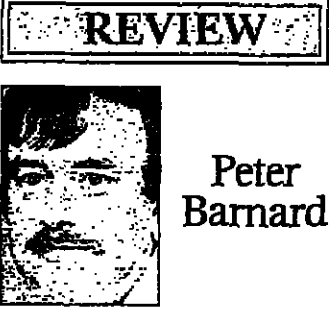
This is tough, more or less, I qualify the judgment because of what was to happen later, but Bradley's colourful hyperbole is typical among people who regard "society" as being in disarray, but apparently do not see themselves as part of society: everything is awful, but don't look at me.

Tony Craig had identified a suitable island and set about buying it. It was called San José

and it was off the coast of Panama, that famed redoubt of civilised values and tranquillity. While Craig negotiated, mobs roamed the streets of Panama City and the military fired at them. Oh well, perhaps San José was a long way off the coast of Panama.

Back in Britain, figurative gunfire could be heard. This was the story of Tony and Lyn Craig, and others in the scheme, wondering why everything was taking so long. The putative settlers were spinning to sound like a Tory Cabinet debating the common currency.

At which point, all was undone. Nothing is better designed to disturb the harmony around the family pool than a former wife surfacing at the deep end, in full view of the cameras. Tony Craig's former wife appeared, to make a devastating opening remark: "He can charm the birds out of the trees and I'm one of them."



Peter Barnard

You felt there was more where that came from. The former wife claimed that Tony had made his money out of shoplifting. The record showed a conviction against Craig for shoplifting and assault. There was also a daughter from that marriage. Again, the record showed that Craig had been accused on three charges relating to alleged sexual abuse of the daughter, but was found not guilty.

I could not deduce from the somewhat muddled presentation of these events whether the plan to settle in San José fell apart because of these developments or had already fallen apart because of general discontent among the other people involved. Whatever the reason, the scheme came to naught. I suspect that is just as well.

The best hospital drama returned for a new series last night: what a pity it is not British. *Chicago Hope* (BBC1) fair crack along with words and pictures: the *AVP2 Blue* of medicine. About five story lines are running at once and I can scarce recall one of them. But what the heck: *Chicago Hope* is all style and good writing, of which there is little enough.

Not that gobbledygook is absent. "Get a head CT stat and let's do an MRI from the front of it." By God, what a good idea: should I bring a camera or a pair of scissors? But there is pathos, bathos, sheer wit

and utter chaos, plus some pretension and an occasionally overcooked layer of angst.

There is also, rare thing, a very good and believable male friendship between two doctors, Jeffrey Geiger (Mandy Patinkin) and Aaron Shutt (Adam Arkin). The good and believable thing is that neither judges the other. Friendship is accepting, not analysing, and this is insufficiently understood in television scripts.

When Geiger and Shutt get on each other's nerves, they express the frustration obliquely and respond through wit. "Do you always answer a question with a question?" "Does that bother you?" I like *Chicago Hope*. A real hospital could not function like this, but *Chicago Hope* still feels like a real hospital.

And finally to *Little Killers: A Short Hectic Life* (Channel 4), a

repeated programme that Michael Caine will want to memorise for his "not a lot of people know that" act at parties. Over to you, Michael.

"Did you know that the water shrew, although no bigger than a credit card, eats half its own body weight every 24 hours? And did you know that that's the equivalent of humans eating 30 three-course meals every day? Etc, and unnumbered things, the water shrew is a very aggressive animal, but so would you be if you were liable to die if you didn't eat for an hour."

Thank you Michael, you seem to have covered most of the things I have learnt about the water shrew. Oh, except that it is active by day and by night. And it winters, so that whereas we might think we are listening to a bird, we are in fact listening to a water shrew. Not a lot of people know that, either.

Matthew Bond is away

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (74253)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceelax) (82104)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceelax) (8457901)
9.20 Style Challenge (s) (1651415)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (1162901)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (81389)
11.00 News and weather (Ceelax) (4451833)
11.05 Son of the Morning Star. The first of a two-part dramatisation of the true story of General George Armstrong Custer. With Gary Cole (s) (Ceelax) (s). Includes News at 12.00 (3676354)
12.45pm Blooming Lovely (h) (17428271)
1.00 News and weather (Ceelax) (32881)
1.30 Regional News and weather (45104611)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceelax) (s) (32472630)
2.00 Call My Bluff (s) (6047123) 2.35 **Turnabout** (s) (39176901) 3.00 **The Terrace** (s) (39176901)
3.30 Moomin (8967475) 3.50 **Little Mouse on the Wall** (8967475) 4.15 **The All New Popeye Show** (s) (Ceelax) (7472291) 4.35 **Grange Hill** (s) (Ceelax) (s) (4897678) 5.00 **Newsround** (Ceelax) (7770494) 5.10 **Byker Grove** (s) (Ceelax) (3483253)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Teletext) (376878)
6.00 News and weather (Ceelax) (833)
6.30 Regional news magazines (185)
7.00 Big Break - Trick Shot Special. Jim Davidson and John Virgo introduce the last in the current series of trick-shot snooker (h) (Ceelax) (s) (8630)
7.30 EastEnders. Cindy sets in motion her plan to leave Ian. Peggy is infuriated by the situation between Grant and Tiffany (Ceelax) (s) (388)
8.00 999 Lifesavers. Michael Bueri and Juliet Morris introduce a series of extraordinary true stories of courage and bravery (Ceelax) (s) (4678)
8.30 Birds of a Feather. Sit-com starring Pauline Curran, Linda Robson and Lesley Joseph (r) (Ceelax) (3185)
9.00 News: regional news and weather (Ceelax) (7123)
9.30 After the Break: The Seven Deadly Sins. Patrick Kelly presents a compilation of 30 years of hilarious commercial clips from around the world (Ceelax) (s) (13456)
10.00 Crimewatch File: The Ice Man. The extraordinary story of Sussex Police's investigation into the murders of Harry and Nicola Furlong (Ceelax) (s) (57123)
10.10 FILM: Missing Pieces (1991). Robert Wuhl, Lauren Hutton and Bob Gunton. A writer discovers that he will inherit a fortune from his foster father, but only if he can unravel a series of strange puzzles. Directed by Leonard B. Stern (7605497) **N.I.L. Sportnight Special** 11.30 **FILM: Missing Pieces** 1.00am **Kick 2.30-2.55 Weather**
12.00 FILM: Kick (1978) with Kim Baker, Madeline McCourt and Chel Doherty. When a gambler finds himself in debt, the group of boys he coaches in soccer decide to come to his aid without his knowledge. Directed by Sean S. Cunningham (3595418)
1.50-1.55am Weather (7810128)

- 6.00am Open University: Chemistry** (2189901) 6.25 **Social Problems and Social Welfare** (2107036) 6.50 **Clean Getaway** (2190299)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (8579630)
7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (8621920)
7.55 Blue Peter (h) (Ceelax) (2080456)
8.20 Fireman Sam (s) (8371423) 8.35 **Lassie** (r) (2426330) 9.00 **Standard Grade Design** (8455543) 9.20 **The RE Collection** (3451497) 9.45 **Watch** (8571814) 10.00 **Playdays** (s) (99475)
10.30 Come Outside (s) (5623388)
10.45 Science Zone: People (s) (1537253) 11.05 **Space Ark** (s) (4400988) 11.15 **Clementine** (s) (5570307) 11.30 **GNVQ** (h) (6630) 12.00 **See Hear** (r) (Ceelax and signing) (s) (96291) 12.30pm **Working Lunch** (24562) 1.00 **Teaching Today** (26263) 1.30 **Showcase** (45102253) 1.40 **Hotch Potch House** (h) (s) (2247027) 2.00 **Fireman Sam** (s) (8122253) 2.10 **National Trust Gardens** (7330843)
2.15 FILM: Wild Texas Wind (1991). Country music intrigue with Dolly Parton, Gary Busey and Willie Nelson. Directed by Joan Tewksbury (Ceelax) (s) (355801)
3.55 News (Ceelax) (4880630) 4.00 **Today's the Day** (758) 4.30 **Ready, Steady, Cook** (982) 5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show** (Ceelax) (8336330) 5.40 **A Week to Remember** (b/w) (878253) 5.50 **Breast of Friends** (747274)
6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (h) (s) (333036)
6.25 Heartbreak High (Ceelax) (s) (215017)
7.10 The O Zone Special. Last in series (s) (96562)
7.30 The Chemistry of (Almost) Everything. An investigation into the way science affects our lives (611)
8.00 Pound for Pound. Financial magazine (s) (5920)



Carluccio's culinary tour (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Antonio Carluccio's Italian Feast** (s) (1727)
9.00 Timewatch: The History of a Mystery. How a poor priest in the South of France found a parchment scroll became rich overnight (Ceelax) (840814)
9.50 Trade Secrets: Chefs. Professionals share the tricks of the trade (Ceelax) (482582)
10.00 Hancock: The Alpine Holiday. Classic comedy with Tony Hancock (b/w) (h) (Ceelax) (87920)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceelax) (614920)
11.15 Over the Edge: Remember Me. People with HIV and AIDS remember their lives (s) (584303)
11.45 Favourite Films. Michael Douglas reveals his favourite movies (r) (Ceelax) (563307)
12.15am Pride of Drass. Followed by *Weatherview* (5478963)
12.30-6.00 The Learning Zone

- Citizen's Arrest Channel 4, 8.00pm**
- In 1994 five powerworkers from Falkirk won £2.3 million on Littlewoods pools. Or they thought they had. But the collector stole their stake money and the winning coupon was never sent. Involving small print, including a law made well before pools or even professional football were heard of, Littlewoods refused to pay. Launching a new series about injustices, self-styled investigative reporter Joe Layburn takes up the case. But apart from giving the case wider publicity, his contribution is modest. The running mate by Mary Bergson, the determined wife of one of the five men, with Layburn mostly relegated to sympathetic onlooker. But the film does suggest that the chances of a collector defrauding Littlewoods and its clients are much greater than a punter winning the jackpot.
- Antonio Carluccio's Italian Feast BBC2, 8.30pm**
- You only have to speculate on Carluccio's waist measurement to know that he likes his food and the first solo series from the burly Italian cook after guest spots on *Food and Drink* is a non-stop homage to culinary enjoyment. If the programmes give the impression that Carluccio and his fellow Italians do little else but eat and drink, then nobody can say they are wasting their time. Each week, Carluccio is in a region of northern Italy demonstrating some of his favourite recipes. He starts in Liguria, where he chats to a chef who has created dishes for the Pope and Frank Sinatra, drops in on a wine-tasting and goes fishing. His menus include pesto sauce, a rabbit and artichoke meal for a group of monks and an elaborate fish stew. Olive oil, lashings of it, is the unwavering ingredient.

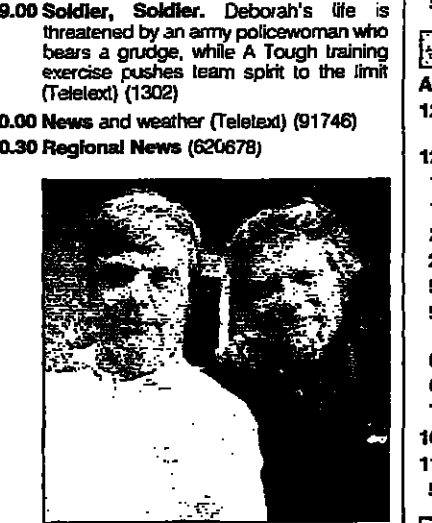
Nuremberg Channel 4, 9.00pm

The impending 50th anniversary of the sentences imposed on leading Nazis for crimes committed during the Second World War forms a reasonable peg for this documentary about the Nuremberg trials. Most of the programme is a clear and unconvincing account of the proceedings, greatly helped by the fact that they were filmed. Being able to see the demeanour of Göring, von Ribbentrop and company in the witness box says much more than a mere record of the exchanges. *Nuremberg* also tells a less familiar story. Once the big names had been dealt with, the court went on to hear charges against Nazi-friendly bankers and industrialists. But because of the need to rebuild the West German economy against the communist threat, these men were given very lenient treatment. Cold War politics, it is suggested, overruled justice.

Network First: Three Men and a Balloon RTV, 10.40pm

Richard Branson is a man who seemingly cannot keep still. Nostalgically, he is depicted as a failed entrepreneur, a failed pilot, a failed businessman. Having failed to cross the Atlantic by balloon, and then the Pacific, he decides to go for the big one: non-stop round the world, a feat not previously accomplished. He is joined by Per Lindstrom, a survivor of previous balloon adventures, and a business chum, Rory McCarthy. The venture turns out to be stronger on photo-opportunities, of which Branson is a master, than on achievement. *Deadlines repeatedly slip* and there are recriminations when the project goes £1 million over budget. Nor have Branson and company got clearance from countries they plan to fly over. Libya, for example, says it will shoot them down. David Stafford's commentary provides an aptly sceptical tone.

- 6.00am GMTV** (5980123)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (9615496)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (3662017)
10.00 The Time... the Place (2533785)
10.35 This Morning (64358901)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (7045456)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (2142291)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (2127982)
1.25 High Road (Teletext) (1908938)
2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (97740678)
2.25 Outlines (Teletext) (s) (97729185) 2.50 **Vanessa** (Teletext) (s) (7858562)
3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (7855562)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7854833)
3.30 Potamus Park (s) (6032765) 3.40 **Wizards** (s) (4260001) 3.50 **Hot Rod Dogs** (s) 4.05 **Garfield and Friends** (2227240) 4.15 **Mey Arnokki** (7458511) 4.40 **The Ward** (Teletext) (8450494)
5.10 Bruce's Price is Right (s) (6324348)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (519458)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (320562)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (595765)
7.00 Emmerdale. The Sugdens hear news of Andy, Mandy has a visit from the police and there is an unelcome return for Sean (Teletext) (9758)
7.30 West Welsh. David Bellamy and Nick Baker admire the view from Bridgewater Bay (s) (765)
8.00 The Bill. McCann and Slater are on the trail of a kleptomaniac (Teletext) (6746)
8.30 My Good Friend. A virus confines Ellie to bed, leaving Peter and Harry to play nursemaid. Betty is persuaded to look after Neil while they take care of Ellie. With George Cole (Teletext) (s) (8253)
9.00 Soldier, Soldier. Deborah's life is threatened by an army policeman who bears a grudge, while A Tough training exercise pushes team spirit to the limit (Teletext) (1302)
10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (91746)
10.30 Regional News (620678)



- 10.40 Network First: Three Men and a Balloon** (Teletext) (s) (196849)
11.40 Highlander (313949)
12.35am Nationwide Football League Extra (1487925)
1.25 FILM: Darker than Amber (1970) starring Rod Taylor, Suzi Kendall and Theodore Bikel. A complex and violent private-eye yarn, directed by Robert Clouse (66128)
3.10 Late & Loud (s) (5704429)
4.05 The Chat Show (s) (8684760)
5.00 Hot Spots (s) (86854)
5.30 ITN Morning News (86936)

- As HTV WEST except:**
6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (595765)
7.30-8.00 James' Journal (765)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.25 Illuminations (7053475)
12.55 Emmerdale (2127982)
1.25-1.55 Outlines (88084185)
1.55 Home and Away (93646433)
2.25 Vanessa (97743765)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1681833)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6324348)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (36307)
7.30-8.00 Treasures (765)
11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (313949)
As HTV West except:
12.30 ITN Luncetime News; Weather (2142291)
12.55 Home and Away (2127982)
1.25 Outlines (88084185)
1.55 A Country Practice (32486833)
2.20 Vanessa (97744494)
2.50-3.20 Cat Crazy (7859562)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6324348)
6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (595765)
7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (765)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (91746)
12.40am Film: Cisco Pike (829925)
2.25 Late & Loud (9163321)
3.15 Pushing the Limits - the Making of Eraser (17102811)
3.40 Joffinder (865857)
5.20 Asian Eye (9788012)
As HTV West except:
12.30pm ITN Luncetime News; Weather (2142291)
12.55 Outlines (2127982)
1.25 Home and Away (63084185)
1.55 Shortland Street (32486833)
2.20 Vanessa (97744494)
2.50-3.20 Hope and Gloria (7859562)
5.10 Home and Away (6324348)
5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Making It Happen (625433)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (901)
6.30-7.00 What's My Line? (253)
7.30-8.00 Out of Town (765)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (91746)
11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (313949)
5.00am Freescreen (86554)

- 6.30am Chicken Minute** (93291) 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (21562) 9.00 **Bless This House** (81433)
9.30 Schools: Eureka (8578727) 9.45 **Stop Look Listen** (8569882) 10.00 **Fourways Farm** (1489068) 10.10 **TYM** (4775017) 10.25 **How We Used to Live** (1754225) 10.45 **Caribbean** (5868611) 11.00 **The New Living Body** (4139901) 11.20 **Stage One** (83876) 11.37 **Lost Animals** (3734524) 11.42 **Poverty Answering Back** (83876) 11.45 **First Edition** (2887334)
12.00 Little River Journeys (177) (98659) 12.30pm **Backstage** (s) (Teletext) (19638) 1.00 **Sesame Street** (14185) 2.00 **Dance of the Stumblers** (29735479) 2.05 **The Living Sea** (98437524)
2.35 FILM: Powder River (1953). Western starring Roy Cheatham. Directed by Louis King (Teletext) (1202475)
4.00 Fifteen to One (s) (Teletext) (494) 4.30 **Countdown** (s) (Teletext) (578) 5.00 **Ricki Lake** (Teletext) (s) (222475) 5.45 **Traveling Tunes** (s) (Teletext) (884272)
6.00 The Avengers (r) (Teletext) (34949)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (613920)
8.00 Citizen's Arrest (s) (Teletext) (7388)
8.30 Brookside. Sam's wife finds her case is far from water-tight (s) (Teletext) (9123)



Goering faces trial (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Nuremberg**. A compelling look at the complex web of politics, justice and morality behind the Nuremberg trials (s) (Teletext) (8104)
10.00 Murder in the Heartland. Concluding the mini-series based on the true story of a teenage runaway couple who, in 1958, embarked on a killing spree that stunned America (r) (Teletext) (527745)
11.50 The Shooting Gallery. The showcase for new cinema returns for an eight-week run beginning with *The Short Cut*. A tale of double cross and assumed identities (734546)
12.05am Sheila. Scottish thriller with an intriguing premise (1212741) 12.15 **Sweeney**. A thief discovers he's chosen the wrong car (5463031) 12.30 **The Tickle**. Four London crooks come together for a job (5543760) 12.50 **Going Down**. Sharp New Zealand thriller (5411050) 12.55 **Attenborough**. Why film about a timid couple (553147) 1.00 **Chinese Whispers**. A tale of the Triads (236673) 1.30 **Freelancer**. A contract killer carries out another job (2605789) 1.45 **A Little Worm**. The meeting of Larry Adler and Al Capone (8487586) 2.00 **Des Homes** *Avec Des Bises*. A kidnapping goes wrong (8308865) 2.15 **A Warning in Polish** with English subtitles (8065050) 2.30 **Computer Visions** hosted by a live-action woman and computer-generated sleuth (7510760). Ends at 3.40
4.00 Schools (74895). Ends at 5.00

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For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision sport supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

- 7.00am Sun** (14320) 8.00 **Press Your Luck** (791756) 9.20 **Low Connection** (8623523) 9.45 **Crash News** (1943123) 10.40 **Jeopardy!** (8420614) 11.10 **Sally Jessy Raphael** (8420614) 11.20 **Gerardo** (8420614) 1.00pm **Animal Practice** (71727) 1.30 **Outrageous** (8420614) 2.00 **Crash** (79755) 2.30 **Crash** (79755) 3.00 **Crash** (79755) 3.30 **Crash** (79755) 4.00 **Crash** (79755) 4.30 **Crash** (79755) 5.00 **Crash** (79755) 5.30 **Crash** (79755) 6.00 **Crash** (79755) 6.30 **Crash** (79755) 7.00 **Crash** (79755) 7.30 **Crash** (79755) 8.00 **Crash** (79755) 8.30 **Crash** (79755) 9.00 **Crash** (79755) 9.30 **Crash** (79755) 10.00 **Crash** (79755) 10.30 **Crash** (79755) 11.00 **Crash** (79755) 11.30 **Crash** (79755) 12.00 **Crash** (79755) 12.30 **Crash** (79755) 1.00am **Crash** (79755) 1.30am **Crash** (79755) 2.00am **Crash** (79755) 2.30am **Crash** (79755) 3.00am **Crash** (79755) 3.30am **Crash** (79755) 4.00am **Crash** (79755) 4.30am **Crash** (79755) 5.00am **Crash** (79755) 5.30am **Crash** (79755) 6.00am **Crash** (79755) 6.30am **Crash** (79755) 7.00am **Crash** (79755) 7.30am **Crash** (79755) 8.00am **Crash** (79755) 8.30am **Crash** (79755) 9.00am **Crash** (79755) 9.30am **Crash** (79755) 10.00am **Crash** (79755) 10.30am **Crash** (79755) 11.00am **Crash** (79755) 11.30am **Crash** (79755) 12.00am **Crash** (79755) 12.30am **Crash** (79755) 1.00am **Crash** (79755) 1.30am **Crash** (79755) 2.00am **Crash** (79755) 2.30am **Crash** (79755) 3.00am **Crash** (79755) 3.30am **Crash** (79755) 4.00am **Crash** (79755) 4.30am **Crash** (79755) 5.00am **Crash** (79755) 5.30am **Crash** (79755) 6.00am **Crash** (79755) 6.30am **Crash** (79755) 7.00am **Crash** (79755) 7.30am **Crash** (79755) 8.00am **Crash** (79755) 8.30am **Crash** (79755) 9.00am **Crash** (79755) 9.30am **Crash** (79755) 10.00am **Crash** (79755) 10.30am **Crash** (79755) 11.00am **Crash** (79755) 11.30am **Crash** (79755) 12.00am **Crash** (79755) 12.30am **Crash** (79755) 1.00am **Crash** (79755) 1.30am **Crash** (79755) 2.00am **Crash** (79755) 2.30am **Crash** (79755) 3.00am **Crash** (79755) 3.30am **Crash** (79755) 4.00am **Crash** (79755) 4.30am **Crash** (79755) 5.00am **Crash** (79755) 5.30am **Crash** (79755) 6.00am **Crash** (79755) 6.30am **Crash** (79755) 7.00am **Crash** (79755) 7.30am **Crash** (79755) 8.00am **Crash** (79755) 8.30am **Crash** (79755) 9.00am **Crash** (79755) 9.30am **Crash** (79755) 10.00am **Crash** (79755) 10.30am **Crash** (79755) 11.00am **Crash** (79755) 11.30am **Crash** (79755) 12.00am **Crash** (79755) 12.30am **Crash** (79755) 1.00am **Crash** (79755) 1.30am **Crash** (79755) 2.00am **Crash** (79755) 2.30am **Crash** (79755) 3.00am **Crash** (79755) 3.30am **Crash** (79755) 4.00am **Crash** (79755) 4.30am **Crash** (79755) 5.00am **Crash** (79755) 5.30am **Crash** (79755) 6.00am **Crash** (79755) 6.30am **Crash** (79755) 7.00am **Crash** (79755) 7.30am **Crash** (79755) 8.00am **Crash** (79755) 8.30am **Crash** (79755) 9.00am **Crash** (79755) 9.30am **Crash** (79755) 10.00am **Crash** (79755) 10.30am **Crash** (79755) 11.00am **Crash** (79755) 11.30am **Crash** (79755) 12.00am **Crash** (79755) 12.30am **Crash** (79755) 1.00am **Crash** (79755) 1.30am **Crash** (79755) 2.00am **Crash** (79755) 2.30am **Crash** (79755) 3.00am **Crash** (79755) 3.30am **Crash** (79755) 4.00am **Crash** (79755) 4.30am **Crash** (79755) 5.00am **Crash** (79755) 5.30am **Crash** (79755) 6.00am **Crash** (79755) 6.30am **Crash** (79755) 7.00am **Crash** (79755) 7.30am **Crash** (79755) 8.00am **Crash** (79755) 8.30am **Crash** (79755) 9.00am

RACING 44

Why jockeys must not be used as whipping boys

SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 45

Pass master still calling the shots for Packers

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 1996

QPR appoint former Arsenal No 2

Houston takes step down to launch career

By Russell Kempson

STEWART HOUSTON is a nice man, with few frills or ulterior motives. He worked diligently behind the scenes at Arsenal for ten years until he resigned last Friday, and finally earned what he believes is due recognition when he became the manager of Queens Park Rangers yesterday. From FA Carling Premiership to Nationwide League first division, perhaps, but from perennial No 2 to new No 1. At last.

It is unlikely that Houston's thoughtful, composed nature will change, even though he will quickly discover where the buck now stops. Amid the heat of Highbury, he twice accepted temporary promotion from assistant to caretaker manager in the wake of the dismissals of George Graham and Bruce Rioch. He coped, calmly and competently.

Yet when it again emerged that Arsenal would not give him the task permanently, that he was just a stop-gap until Arsène Wenger gained release from Nagoya Grampus Eight in Japan, his ambitions could no longer be suppressed. QPR had a vacancy, having recently parted company with Ray Wilkins,

and Houston, 47, accepted a three-year contract. "My decision was based over a period of time, it was not instantly reached," he said at Loftus Road yesterday. "I have always felt that, at some stage in my life and career, I would either go ahead and become a No 1 or stay and be happy as a No 2."

It may be seen as taking a step down from the Premiership but, balancing that, I'm stepping up to a No 1 position. I felt I had to move on, the time was right. I had to take it. Rangers want to get back to the Premiership and so do I. I'll give it my best shot and I hope the players do, too."

QPR are sixth in the first division, after winning 3-1 against Barnsley at Oakwell on Saturday. Houston will lead them for the first time in their Coca-Cola Cup second-round, first-leg tie away to Swindon Town tomorrow.

Houston knows that success will be expected, then demanded. It does not faze him. "The Nationwide League is probably just as competitive as the Premiership," he said. "It is a very competitive industry all round, the level of

expectation is always very high.

"Supporters expect their team to be challenging for honours and, if you do well, you get the rewards. If you don't, you have to face the consequences."

For Chris Wright, the owner of the Chrysalis Group, QPR and Wasps RFC, the surprise and dismay of Wilkins's sudden departure had swiftly evaporated. "Stewart has many fine qualities and a wealth of experience," he said. "He will have funds made available to him and he does not have to sell first before he can buy. We've made that quite clear."

Houston, a former player with Chelsea, Manchester United and Sheffield United, intends to look, learn and listen over the next few weeks. He has to decide whether the backroom staff of Frank Sibley, Billy Bonds and John Hollins are part of his plans, and whether Mark Hateley, the forward, should have his loan spell extended at Leeds United.

He also has to settle the future of Trevor Sinclair, the much-courted England Under-21 striker. "We don't need to sell Trevor," Wright said. "We don't need the money, it's as simple as that."

Before agreeing to move from north to west London, Houston spoke with George Graham, his mentor at Highbury and the new manager at Leeds. Though the possibility existed of him joining Graham at Elland Road, it was eventually ruled out. "We had a conversation and George said it was probably the right time for me to be a No 1," Houston said.

If QPR are to return to the Premiership in May, Houston will have to put into practice everything he gleaned from Graham. "I've gained an enormous amount of knowledge from him," he said. "He was a teacher but also a winner, which was his greatest asset. If I can follow in the George Graham style of winning things, then that'll be fine."



Houston faces questions at Loftus Road after being installed as the new Queens Park Rangers manager yesterday

Wenger lifts Highbury gloom

By Russell Kempson

GOOD news has been rare at Highbury this season, but Arsenal bucked the trend yesterday by confirming that they had finally managed to prise Arsène Wenger, the French coach, from Nagoya Grampus Eight, his club in Japan.

Wenger, who succeeds Bruce Rioch, will arrive in north London on September 30. Pat Rice, the Arsenal youth team coach, will continue in the role of caretaker manager until after the FA Carling Premiership match at home to Sunderland on September 28. Wenger, 46, will then have plenty of time to take stock of his inheritance. With the Premiership taking a break because of World Cup

qualifying games, his first match in charge, against Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park, is not until October 12. "It is my dream to manage a team in a top-level European league and it has always been my ambition to work in England," he said. "If I didn't accept this offer right now, I would miss the chance. I feel I have a special commitment to Arsenal."

Wenger's two-year contract with Nagoya does not expire until January next year but, after lengthy negotiations with the J-League club, he gained his release. He will be replaced by Carlos Queiroz, the former Portugal national coach, who is in charge of New York-New Jersey MetroStars, the Major

League Soccer side in the United States.

It also emerged yesterday that Arsenal's interest in Wenger apparently preceded the dismissal of Rioch on August 12. Masaharu Teshima, a spokesman for Nagoya, said that Wenger first indicated that he wanted to resign in early August. He agreed to stay on until the end of the J-League season in November but the situation changed radically with the sudden departure of Rioch.

When Wenger arrives, Arsenal could already be out of the UEFA Cup. They travel to Germany next week for their first-round, second-leg tie against Borussia Mönchengladbach, with a 3-2 deficit. Wenger will also have to

address the problems of Tony Adams, the club captain, who has admitted to alcoholism.

"It's very unfortunate but I've always seen him as a courageous player," Wenger said. "There will be changes eventually but, in Tony's case, I will want to see him to stress that he is very much part of my plans."

Wenger, who joined AS Monaco in 1987 and guided them to the French championship title in his first season in charge, will be hoping to bring a semblance of normality, and sanity, back to Highbury. "There has been a lot of upheaval at the club in recent weeks and I will be looking for some stability as well as bringing in new ideas," he said.

FA brings in breath tests for players to help clubs

By John Goodbody

PLAYERS are to undergo random breath tests after matches and training sessions as the Football Association begins a new drive to warn of the dangers of alcohol.

The governing body's concern has been heightened by the revelation at the weekend from Tony Adams, the England defender and Arsenal captain, that he is an alcoholic, while Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, has spoken of his worry about the "pop-star lifestyles" of some leading players.

The FA yesterday emphasised that it had planned to introduce these tests before the admission of Adams. However, after several drugs scandals in football, the FA is increasingly worried about the reputation of the national game.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said: "We will be testing players at every professional League club this season, either after matches or at the end of training sessions."

"Last season, we announced a programme of 500 drugs tests that would be carried out and, as part of this process, a substantial proportion will include breath-testing players for the presence of alcohol."

Double said that a positive test for alcohol would be registered where a player recorded a reading above the drink-drive limit of 35 micrograms per 100 millilitres of breath.

"The object of the exercise is to identify those players who do have a problem and bring this to the attention of the club's medical staff," he added.

In the past two years, Paul Merson, Adams's Arsenal colleague, has admitted using cocaine, and Roger Stanislaus, the Leyton Orient defender, tested positive for the same drug. In this period, eight professional players have been found to have taken marijuana and one has tested positive for amphetamines.

Edwards encouraged in chase for Nadal

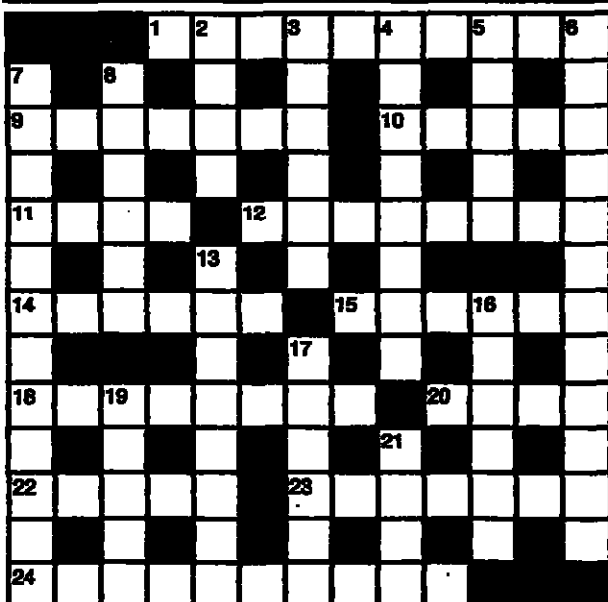
MANCHESTER UNITED moved quickly to put the signing of Miguel Angel Nadal back on course yesterday. After a phone call from Barcelona, Martin Edwards, the United chairman and chief executive, flew to Spain to meet Barcelona officials (Peter Ball writes).

Reports had suggested that Barcelona were having second thoughts about allowing the defender to leave, but Alex Ferguson, the United manager,

er, said: "The chairman has been in contact with Barcelona and we are still confident that the deal will go through despite what was being said over the weekend."

Manchester City's search for a new manager moved closer to success yesterday. Dave Bassett, the Crystal Palace manager, had talks with the City chairman, Francis Lee, on Saturday and is expected to be appointed in the next 48 hours.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 889

ACROSS

- 1 General melle (4-3-3)
- 9 Put down; a part-payment (7)
- 10 Pulsate (5)
- 11 Portentous sign (4)
- 12 Round; piece of junk mail (8)
- 14 Dead Jester (Hamlet) (6)
- 15 S Vietnam capital: Miss —, musical (6)
- 18 For all to share (8)
- 20 Ready money (4)
- 22 Scent (5)
- 23 Wariness (7)
- 24 The recent past (10)

DOWN

- 2 Play (4)
- 3 Bring about; restrict (inherent) (6)
- 4 Spectacle-maker (8)
- 5 Month Oh, to be in England (5)
- 6 Mazelike (12)
- 7 Quirk of personality (12)
- 8 Seem; turn up (6)
- 13 Exact (8)
- 16 For nothing (6)
- 17 Easy to remember (tune) (6)
- 19 Ties up; high ground (5)
- 21 Russian parliament (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 888

ACROSS: 1 Roquefort 6 Was 8 Chemist 9 Nasty 10 Ultra 11 Envelope 13 Exhale 14 Access 17 Sagacity 18 Char 20 Bowie 21 Trounce 22 Ray 23 Eleventh

DOWN: 1 Reduce 2 Queen's highway 3 Eric 4 Outing 5 Tendency 6 Wash one's hands 7 Style 12 Black-eye 15 Surtees 16 Statue 17 Sober 19 Hone

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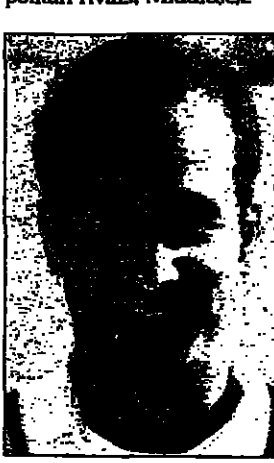
Surrey's shortcomings leave title ambitions in the hands of rivals

By Alan Lee
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CARDIFF (final day of four): Glamorgan (5pts) drew with Surrey (1)

A SECOND trophy, and one for which they would undoubtedly trade in their first, remains tantalisingly within Surrey's reach. This, though, was not the triumphal day that they had in mind after winning the Sunday league. The wide grins and euphoria of a day earlier were replaced by long faces and fraying tempers in a finish that strayed dramatically from Surrey's prescribed script.

After a deflating failure to bowl out Glamorgan, and some posturing over Matthew Maynard's justifiable reluctance to declare, Surrey had a brief, brave but futile dash at a target of 336 in an eventual 51 overs. It ended in a scrambled draw, a scrap to deny Glamorgan's spinners and the knowledge that their championship prospects now depend upon a rare favour from their metropolitan rivals, Middlesex.



Shaid: three-hour spell

The hopes of Essex expired yesterday but Kent, by spectacularly defeating Hampshire, can still dream. When the final round of fixtures begins on Thursday, Leicestershire require 11 points — a draw with full bonus points — from their home game with Middlesex to be certain of taking the title. If they lose, either Surrey or Kent can overtake them by winning.

Victory here would have restored Surrey to their previous position at the shoulder of the leaders, a single point adrift. They fell short through the one omission that could not be cured by improved spirit and motivation. Quite simply, they do not possess a slow bowler likely to win them a match. This is not something that Surrey deny — indeed, they are actively seeking to put it right in time for next season — but it has been their undoing before and it was once more yesterday.

Nothing could have endorsed this more plainly than their need to employ Nadeem Shahid unchanged for three

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	L	D	St	Pts
Leicestershire	16	9	1	5	53	57
Surrey	16	8	1	7	49	60
Kent	16	9	1	6	47	48
Essex	16	8	4	4	54	55

Remaining fixtures
LEICESTERSHIRE: Sept 19: v Middlesex (Gloucestershire)
SURREY: Sept 19: v Worcestershire (Oval)
KENT: Sept 19: v Gloucestershire (Bristol)
ESSEX: Sept 19: v Glamorgan (Chelmsford)

hours at the start of play. Shahid purveys interesting leg spin, with an action and accompanying grunt eerily reminiscent of Shane Warne. The effect, however, is somewhat diminished and, although he responded admirably to take three wickets, they were his first in the championship all season.

Richard Pearson, whose off spin played a decisive role in the Sunday victory, lacks the guile and nous to penetrate on good pitches in championship cricket. Whether this Sophia Gardens surface deserves to be called "good" is debatable, for it was so slow and low as to frustrate bowlers of all types, yet it did sustain the contest

over four intriguing days with a twist in the tail.

Surrey's first task was to split the Glamorgan four-wicket pair who had stymied them through the evening session on Saturday. It was almost an hour before they did so. Shahid bowling Cottee for 83, but two more wickets before lunch put Surrey on top. Dale top-edged an attempted sweep and James, having completed his seventh century of the season, was a classical leg-spin victim, caught at slip.

At this point, Glamorgan led by only 204 with six wickets down. The door was ajar for Surrey but they were not equipped to kick it down. They took the new ball after lunch but left Shahid bowling, as if aware that the seamers could do no better. After Croft and Shaw had perky added 79, and the lead stretched to 300, Alec Stewart unstrapped his pads to have a bowl.

He probably knew in his heart that Maynard owed him no favours, but ten Surrey players had bowled and the tension of the day was visible by the time Glamorgan finally called a halt. Surrey responded valiantly, promoting first Julian, then Hollis and Lewis, but the pre-ta sprint of ten runs an over could not realistically be sustained.

Wickets fell regularly, three to a masterful spell from Robert Croft, and once Hollis's glittering 85, made from only 70 balls, had ended. Surrey were grateful for the three points. They may yet be crucial, though Leicestershire have it in their own hands to decree otherwise.

Photograph, page 46
Mighty McCague, page 46

CARDIFF SCOREBOARD

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 364 (A Dale 90, M P Maynard 82)		SURREY: First Innings 471 (for 9 dcs (M Shahid 79, G P Thorpe 77, M P Bodeloni 58 not out, C C Lewis 67, A J Hollis 51; D A Croft 4 for 142)	
Second Innings		Second Innings	
S P James c Thorpe b Shahid	131	B P Julian c Dale b Weller	0
H Morris c Stewart b Julian	17	M A Butcher c Shaw b Parkin	9
D J Harp c Benjamin	8	A J Hollis c bow b Croft	85
M P Maynard c Lewis b Pearson	16	C C Lewis c Shaw b Croft	40
A D Cottee b Shahid	83	J E Stanger c wicket b Croft	10
A Dale c Stewart b Shahid	11	D J Bodeloni not out	27
R D B Croft c Lewis b Butcher	38	A J Stewart c Croft b Croft	2
D A Croft not out	6	G P Thorpe c Dale b Croft	10
S L Watkin c sub b Butcher	0	N Shahid not out	24
O T Parkin not out	8	Extras (b 1, lb 3, nb 2)	6
Sum (b 5, lb 20, w 5, nb 18)	48		
Total (9 wickets)	442	Total (7 wickets)	205
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-47, 2-56, 3-94, 4-292, 5-298, 6-311, 7-390, 8-434, 9-434.		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-15, 3-84, 4-88, 5-154, 6-167, 7-171.	
BOWLING: M P Bodeloni 12-2-37-0; Lewis 14-4-45-0; Julian 9-1-40-1; Benjamin 10-5-21; Hollis 5-1-12-0; Pearson 34-7-88-1; D J Bodeloni 5-0-25-0; Shahid 29-5-85-3; Butcher 5-0-23-3; Stewart 2-0-24-0.		BOWLING: Weller 3-0-25-1; Parkin 3-0-42-1; Croft 22-6-49-3; Croft 20-8-80-2; Maynard 1-1-0-0; Colley 1-0-4-0.	
		Umpires: J C Balderson and A Clarkson.	

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OUR INTERE

'TWO BOB DOUBLETALK'

THE TWO BOB DOUBLETALK UPPER CLASS TOWERS TO KNOX BOX

He's answering the wrong people ask about airline mergers.

Particularly, Bob L. King, CEO of Delta Air Lines, and Bob Crandall, President of American Airlines.

In the past, the two have had some pretty good rapport. But now, as they try to merge Delta, Trans World, and American Airlines that, and their representatives have completely changed their tune.

So play the two executives.

Just like the two said they would oppose, they were in no more

than 20 words why you think the Delta merger should be referred to the Monopoly and Mergers Commission with 2014-2015. Control of Trans World's routes, the police to certainty of risk.

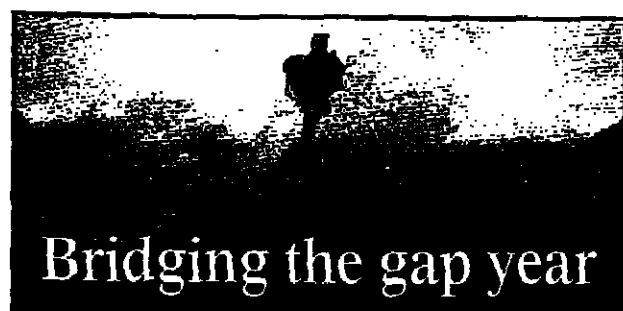
The first correct answer out of Robert Crandall's law on Sept. 25th was the Virgin Atlantic Upper Class return flight to New York.

The company is open to everyone, including all employees of Delta and AA, (some of them may need a free ticket to the management of Delta and AA get their way) and especially the two Bobs.

virgin atlantic



In Part Two of our series, a mother and daughter discuss the gap year; plus the options available



Bridging the gap year

DAUNTED by your decision to take a year off? Then consult our guide below — and be miles ahead of your fellow voyagers before you even set off...

OPTIONS

WORKING ABROAD

School-leavers often think of VSO when planning a year abroad — but placements are for a minimum of two years and you must be at least 20. There are, however, more than 40 organisations that can help students to plan gap years: three are detailed here, the rest can be tracked down through any of the books in the Reading section below.

Gap Activity Projects (GAP) (01734 594914) is an educational charity which organises voluntary work in more than 30 countries. There is a £25 registration fee and a £420 placement fee. You will have to pay for your flights, insurance and, if necessary, a £200 TEFL course. In return you get free board and pocket money for placements lasting from six to nine months.

Project Trust (01879 230 444) offers posts for students wanting to do voluntary work for at least nine months. Apply the year before if possible. Candidates do a one-week selection course and pay £2,950.

Gap Challenge, World Challenge Expeditions (WCE) (0181 961 1122) sends students in small groups to Belize, Ethiopia, India, Nepal and Tanzania for three to six-month placements as teachers or social workers. Placements cost £1,200 which includes a training course, return flight and accommodation.

STAYING IN THE UK Homebodies should consider becoming a Community Service Volunteer. Each year 3,000 young people work on projects ranging from helping the homeless in Glasgow to living with people with learning difficulties in Wales. You must be 16-35 and willing to work away from home full-time for four to 12 months. You will have free accommodation and meals, plus £22.50 a week. No one is rejected. Phone 0800 374991.

INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

It may seem daunting to head off into the unknown without formulated plans, but don't worry — you will not be alone. There are well-trodden routes full of people in the same pickle as yourself, and flexibility is one of the joys of travel.

● Round-the-world tickets incorporating stop-offs in Singa-

pore, Brunei, Perth, Sydney, Auckland, Fiji, Rarotonga, Honolulu and Los Angeles start at £695.

● Inter-rail tickets are priced by zones and range from £185 to £275. Most are valid for one month. Not all European countries participate in the scheme.

● Eurobus prices range from £99 for two weeks to £235 for three months. In America: Greyhound Bus passes cost £195 for 30 days. A Canada Pass is £99 for seven days.

● Travel agents: STA Travel has more than 100 offices worldwide and negotiates cheap fares for students: 0171 361 6161 (Europe); 0171 361 6262 (Worldwide).

● Trailfinders has a terrific reference library: 0171 937 5499 (Europe and US); 0171 938 3939 (Long-haul).

RAISING FUNDS

Gap Activity Projects recommends that as well as conventional ways of raising funds such as bar work, students should hold their own sponsored events.

Organisations offering sponsorship to students include Rotary International (0171-487-5429); Lions Club International (01254-813661); and the Round Table (0121-456-4402) and the Chamber of Commerce (0171-248-4444). Students' applications must explain what they hope to achieve in their gap year.

WHAT TO PACK

Overpacking is a common mistake made by first-time travellers. Lay out all the items you think you will need, then reduce it by half. If you are going to a hot country, limit rucksack size to a 35-litre (£35-£50). Avoid buying more than a 65-litre (£85-£140) pack. It is vital to secure your luggage: if locks are not provided, buy mini padlocks which clip on to luggage zip-tags. Also take a smaller day bag for valuables and things you may need in a hurry.

Useful things to pack include: a light waterproof, torch, penknife, inner-sheet, string, padlock, mini towel, sewing kit, water bottle, flip-flops (for use in unsavory bathrooms). Pack everything in individual plastic bags.

Invest in lightweight gear sold in specialist shops such as YHA Adventure Shops (0171 836 8541), Blacks (0171 636 6645) and Millets (0171 936 1977).

SAFETY

● The biggest danger in the

I won't skin rabbits



Staying together, for now: Erin and Sally Baker

Gap year? Gap between what and what? Childhood and adulthood? Only if you class students as adults. Poverty and greater poverty? Undoubtedly. And guess who will end up bridging that gap?

But that's enough grumbling. I am as thrown by Erin's late change of plan as she is, since I agreed with her initial judgment that she would not wait a year before embarking on the next educational journey. But she achieved such remarkable

THE MOTHER: AT LEAST SHE IS SPARED FROM THE WHITE SLAVERS

A-level results that if she now wants to try for the very best, I am nervously behind her. So the crucial thing, in my boringly predictable parental view, is not to commit the cardinal sin of Wasting Her Time. The catch, of course, is that we define waste rather differently.

The following exchange took place almost immediately the deci-

sion to defer university was taken.

Erin: "I'm not going abroad."

Me: "Oh yes you are."

Erin: "Oh no I'm not."

I had naturally assumed she would be following in the dusty footsteps of so many of her peers and heading for Nepal, Singapore, Sydney, Thailand and anywhere else that the youth of the world gather to share exotic substances.

THE DAUGHTER: IT IS NOT AN EASY OPTION

A gap year is not the easy option. After only a day of trying to plan mine, I realise that I have just done the unthinkable and turned down a place for this October at a fine university in order to chase a place for 1997 at an even more prestigious establishment.

Hooray, I thought. Now I'll go off and do good deeds, attempt exciting challenges and travel the world. The university of my dreams won't fail to be impressed, and my mother will never nag me again about doing something useful with my life.

It was only when I sat down to make a list of all the possibilities for my year out that the terrible thought struck me: what do I actually want to do? Unlike one friend, I do not relish the thought of skinning a rabbit on a Raleigh International expedition or raising the huge amount of money needed to do it. On the other hand, I do enjoy expeditions and travelling. Thus I decided to complete my Duke of Edinburgh gold award and to try to arrange a visit to Bonn to practise my A-level German and earn some money while I'm out there.

The rest of my plans fell into place owing to the pressure that practically everyone having a gap year faces, namely finances and university expectations. The first clearly involves getting a job. For my gap year friends and myself this seems to be the easiest part so far. I've got an interview arranged for temporary work until January. It's the "university expectations" bit that's the tricky part.

I know that many institutions are happy to let their prospective students mature and develop of their own accord throughout the year and are just relieved to see them turn up in one piece the following October, knowing that they haven't

become disenchanted with the idea of higher education altogether. Others, however, demand an indication of a plan before deciding whether or not to interview candidates. I have yet to find out how thoroughly they check whether your stated plans are eventually fulfilled. I rather suspect it is up to the integrity of each student — I don't see how else another friend ended up being a dinner lady at the local primary school after assuring her university she was going to Zimbabwe.

It was never my intention to have a gap year, but now that I am busily immersed in organising the next 12 months and reapplying for university, I can think of a thousand sensible reasons for doing so: I would have been barely 18 when I started my degree; I was feeling extremely nervous about heading for the other end of Britain in two weeks' time and, despite the views of my parents, I fervently believe that now is the best time to take a year out.

The tight job market increases the pressure for work experience. Most university application forms as well as the Ucas forms ask for details of experience.

Having argued energetically in favour of a gap year, however, I can still remember that less than a month ago I thought it out of the question. There was nothing I felt the burning desire to do, unlike a few of my friends who just knew they had to go and teach English in Malaysia or work in a church in inner-city Birmingham. In my mind's eye, I had my future mapped out step by step for the next year at least. Now I am planning a stint at Marks & Spencer. As they say, the best laid plans...

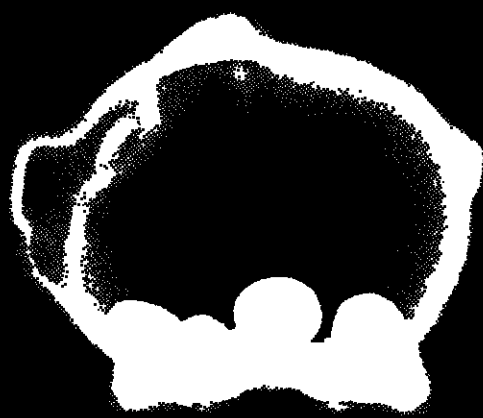
ERIN BAKER

harassed consumers will be not only an education but a money-earner.

So it looks as if I'm stuck with her for a bit longer. And if she subsequently makes it as far as Bonn (not abroad with a capital A) to keep up her German, I shall at least be spared some of the nightmare visions of her falling prey to some tropical disease, or into the clutches of a white slave trader.

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Third World is traffic. In India, trains are safer than buses. In Bangkok, avoid tuk-tuks (motorised rickshaws).

● Never rent a motorbike in Asia: bad roads, bad bikes, worse lorry drivers. And don't get on a motorbike-taxi with a heavy rucksack — you will topple over.

● Lock your train compart-

ment in Europe: organised gangs have been known to chloroform sleeping passengers and rob them.

● Wear a money belt under your shirt or trousers. And don't assume that fellow travellers in hostels are trustworthy.

● If you change your travel plans, let somebody know. Phone home regularly.

● Know where you're going before you set out each day. Avoid standing on street corners flapping a map around — and find out about no-go areas.

● Beware of bogus advice from gung-ho travellers.

● Be aware of culture gaps with regard to scanty clothing etc.

● Don't be fooled by the ready availability of drugs in countries where they are nonetheless illegal. Strenuous efforts are made to trap foreigners in possession.

If you have any doubts, get in touch with the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit (0171 270 4129) or its recorded information service (0374 500900).

HEALTH

VACCINATIONS

Find out whether you need any jabs at least two months before you travel. Your local GP or health centre should have the relevant information and will give jabs free. The medical advisory service for travellers at the London School of Tropical Medicine (0171-631-4408) is a valuable source of information.

FOOD AND DRINK

Tap water is best avoided as are ice, salads, ice-cream and unboiled milk. Sterilisation pills are available for water, although their taste is unpleasant. Stick to freshly prepared food.

INSURANCE

Make sure your insurance covers medical expenses plus your luggage, passport and tickets.

EMERGENCIES

The most likely emergencies are that you become ill or lose your money. The loss or theft of travellers cheques or credit cards should always be reported to the police. Then as quickly as possible, ring someone at home and ask them to

cancel your credit cards.

If you are completely broke you could contact the nearest British Embassy or Consulate. They cannot bail you out but should advise you.

Health can be more of a problem. For minor ailments, ask at a pharmacy for advice. A small medical kit is also a sensible thing to carry (including sterile needles).

ing sterile needles).

READING

● *The Gap Year Guidebook* 1997/98, Peridot Press, 2 Blenheim Crescent, London W11 1NN (0171 221 7404). £7.95 plus 50p p&p.

● *Taking A Year Off* by Val

Butcher, Trotman and Co. 12 Hill Rise, Richmond TW10 6UA. £7.95 plus £1.60 p&p (0181 332 2132).

● *A Year Off, A Year On?* Hobsons, Bateman St, Cambridge CB2 1BR. £8.99 incl p&p from Biblos, Star Rd, Partridge Green, West Sussex RH13 8LD.

● Booklets on teaching Eng-

lish as a foreign language and teaching abroad: £2.35 and an s.a.e. to AGCAS, Crawford House, Precinct Centre, Manchester M13 9EP.

● *How To Spend A Year Abroad* by Nick Vandome. Part of the *How To* series. £3.99.

● *The Rough Guide and Lonely Planet series.*

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● Presentation packs, first day covers, postcards, and the Classic Sports Car stamps are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau: call 0345 641 641 (Mon-Fri); and most Post Offices — for more details call 0345 22 33 44. First day covers are also available from BPCPA: 0181 886 6744

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CHANGING TIMES

لنحذر من الأصل

'This old age pensioner is rather enjoying herself right now'

Britain's former spy chief, Stella Rimington, writes about the pleasures of life with a bus pass

As Director-General of MI5, you know things. Not all about everyone's private life, but you do know quite a lot of what's going on in the country and in the world. A former head of the French Renseignements Généraux, which is roughly equivalent to MI5, once told me that he was required to keep his finger on the pulse of France, so that the President could judge every day the health of the nation.

As chief of MI5 you have no such wide-ranging monitoring task, but you do sit at the head of an efficient machine, working to produce assessed intelligence about what is threatening the security of the State.

At the same time, though, you are quite insulated from day-to-day life. You are driven from place to place; you rarely use public transport. If you go shopping you do it in a rush, dashing in for a trolley-load of convenience food on your way home from work. You don't have a lot of time or opportunity to socialise, except on official business, or to chat with the window-cleaner or the milkman, or even with your children. You rely for your information about everyday affairs, heaven help you, on the newspapers.

I have found that now I have emerged, blinking, into the

daylight, and have time to look around me, the world seems to have moved on from when I last really noticed it. And rather than finding, as I was expecting, that everything had got worse, to my amazement quite a lot of things seem to be better than I remember them. Perhaps it is because so much of my time, for so many years, has been focused on the activities of unpleasant people, like

'I know crowds conceal muggers and mad axemen'

terrorists and spies, that the sheer relief of not having to think about them anymore has generated an unrealistic euphoria. I hope it is not only that. Surprisingly enough, for one who had been travelling around London by bus and Tube for years, I was quite nervous

about launching forth again. I had read how public transport had deteriorated and I was expecting to find the Tubes dirty and dangerous and the buses unreliable. Nothing of the kind.

While I've been in purdah, London's buses seem to have changed out of all recognition. In addition to the old familiar 'double-deckers', there are all those little single-deckers, whizzing around. They seem amazingly efficient, and using my free senior citizen's bus pass, I leap on and off with gay abandon. They come on time and the drivers are friendly and helpful. Twice recently, I



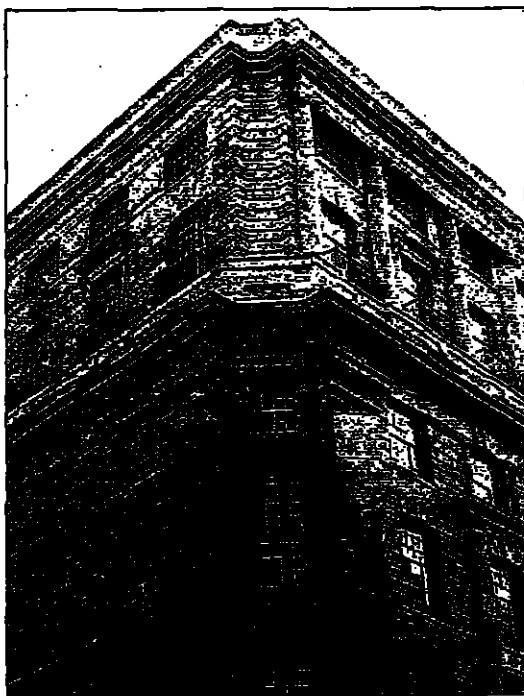
"Now I have emerged blinking into daylight, things seem better than I remember them"

have been on a bus, which made extra steps to let off people closer to their homes than the bus stop — somebody with heavy bags and a woman with a baby and a pram. It is probably quite illegal, but the driver wanted to help. I have noticed that the drivers often stop and open the doors again when they see someone running to catch the bus.

Don't I remember the days when they would have accelerated away with glee in such circumstances? Maybe it is because I always travelled in the rushhour, before, when all the rest of the passengers would have complained at such kindnesses.

I am sure that there are far more people around than I remember. At all times of the day, the buses and Tubes, the streets and the shops and even the picture galleries seem to be full, and they are certainly not all tourists.

I avoid the rushhour, but even what once would have been the quiet times are as busy as the rushhour used to be. I know that the crowds conceal muggers and mad



The headquarters of MI5 in Millbank, London

axemen, but I have not come across any yet, and to me, participating in it all for the first time for some years, it seems lively and interesting.

And practically everyone seems to be wearing training shoes. It must be because they are particularly comfortable. You see middle-aged or quite old people with staid-looking top halves, sporting huge white shoes with pink and purple flashes.

But why does everyone seem to be swearing all the time? I have not led a sheltered life, but I am constantly taken aback, as I eavesdrop on people talking to each other in public places, at the extent to which obscenities seem to have become part of the everyday language of conversation. There is a national shortage of adjectives and it is not only among the young.

I feel cheerful about the young on the whole. At least about the young I meet. Those who get on the buses are as rude and aggressive as they always were. But the young people I talk to, and I have met quite a lot in the last few months at various university dos and school prizegivings, are very self-possessed and lucid and sure about what they want to do, and apparently prepared to work hard to

achieve their objectives. And they are certainly not all motivated primarily by money. The schools and universities must be doing something right.

I used to be very proud of the young people who came into the Security Service, when I saw how quickly they mastered the work and how enthusiastic and committed they were to be doing a job that they thought, quite correctly, was of great importance to the country. Of course, we chose them very carefully, but there was no shortage of good candidates.

The young, rightly, expect a lot from their employers. They expect to be trained properly and to be managed well and to have their views listened to and taken seriously.

It has struck me, as I go about, that people are, on the whole, better trained to do their jobs than they used to be. The standard of service seems to be higher. Now that I am not always in a rush, I have time to talk and to ask questions, and most of the time, I get sensible and polite replies. I do not think I could have counted on that a few years ago.

The other day, probably rather unfairly, I asked someone who was working on a cash-till in a branch of a well-known chainstore, to explain the reasoning behind her employer's policy on credit cards.

She gave me a most courteous and coherent reply, without slowing down her task of ringing up my purchases on the till and packing them into bags. I suspect that until quite recently I might have got at best a blank stare and quite possibly a rude reply.

My rose-tinted spectacles will, I know, begin to change colour as I get further into my new life. But for the moment, one old age pensioner is rather enjoying herself.

Tragedy of the Titanic — and the voices that kept haunting me

Novelist Beryl Bainbridge on how writing about a famous marine disaster changed her view of ghosts

I am not the sort of person who believes in ghosts, but I am beginning to take on board the idea that someone who is engaged in turning an historical event into a work of fiction could, quite possibly, become a kind of transmitter of voices from the past.

In the small hours of the morning of April 15, 1996, I was wrestling with the writing of the last few pages of my novel entitled *Every Man for Himself*. Such a phrase has, of course, two meanings; the first being an injunction bawled out to his crew by the captain of a sinking ship; the second a truthful, if cynical, observation on the nature of man. I was working on a word processor in the top back room of a Victorian terraced house in Camden Town. From the window, over the blurred spigote of the tree in next door's garden, rose the pale outline of the old Craven A cigarette factory, now known as Greater London House, whose gleaming bulk rears up like the stern of some vast ocean liner tethered in the dry dock of Mornington Crescent.

In my mind I was on the deck of the steamship *Titanic*, which sank on her maiden voyage to New York in the early hours of April 15, 1912.

Most novelists enjoy writing the concluding pages of a book: there are few things more satisfying in life than that last gallop towards the final paragraph. Always before, I'd known what I wanted to say at the end, often before I knew what I wanted to say at the beginning, and although the results never matched up to the expectations, at least I'd never been at a loss for words.

The process is usually helped by a brief moment — it can happen at any stage in a book — when two or three sentences write themselves, or rather, the thoughts ride in like the cavalry. For me, this had happened in the previous chapter, during a scene in the restaurant when one of my characters, called Morgan, sticking to his new-found resolve never to drink again, begins to feel "queer". "I had to go on eating because if I looked up I might see faces pressed to the window, hands clawing the glass."

After this unexpected but helpful intervention it was not too difficult to write of

the events surrounding the great ship's collision with the iceberg which, to a sound like the tearing of calico, ripped a 300ft gash in her side. Now, the last lifeboat having rowed away, the lights still blazing and the orchestra still playing *Nearer My God to Thee*, I was one of the 1,500 souls left on board.

Not all of us, of course, were on the top deck, clawing our way upwards as the stern began to lift from the water. Benjamin Guggenheim and his valet had gone below to change into evening

they had come in such numbers. I crept downstairs, but no sooner had I reached the first landing than the voices ceased. I checked my bedside wireless to see if it had been left on, but it had fallen off the table and the batteries had rolled under the fringes of the counterpane. Convinced it was just my imagination, somewhat loud, at play, I returned to my desk. After a struggle, I continued with the story.

I was in the middle of describing the ship's death-dive and my leap into the ocean — when the voices began again. This time I stayed put, arm pressed to my mouth. My lips were dry and I licked the skin of my wrist and nearly gagged on the taste of salt. I wasn't frightened, simply curious. I couldn't make out the words going on downstairs: the tone wasn't hysterical or verging on panic, merely the sort of hum one can hear at any literary party.

At dawn, when I was reaching the end, I stood at the window and watched the way the tree next door tossed in the wind, obliterating the ventilation shaft of Greater London House. The voices had grown louder than before, as though people were bidding each other farewell. Then the last sentence came to me: "Beyond where the sun was beginning to show its burning rim, smoke blew from a funnel."

No sooner had I put the final stop, then abruptly the voices died away. I swear the following silence was the most frightening sound of all.

Some weeks later, I was told of a strange incident in Ireland. A friend had gone for a walk and sat down to rest on a bench near some trees. She immediately began to shiver and felt extremely depressed, so much so that she returned home in a distressed state. It was discovered that she had been sitting on a bench dedicated to the memory of Bruce Ismay, a director of the Cunard shipping line, who was pilloried for the rest of his life for being one of the few survivors of the *Titanic* disaster. It was thought that, like the captain, he should have gone down with his ship.

Maybe I believe in ghosts after all.

● *Every Man for Himself* by Beryl Bainbridge is published by Duckworth (£14.99).



Bainbridge: Ordeal

dress, so as to "die like gentlemen." Mrs Straus, wife of the millionaire who owned Macy's store in New York, was guided towards a lifeboat, but had refused to board without her husband. He, offered a place owing to his advanced years, declined, at which Mrs Straus is reported to have said: "We shall stay together, old dear. As we have lived, so shall we die." They then went and sat on deckchairs, holding hands.

In my head I considered writing of a blazing row between them, in which she called him an arrogant old fool for not getting into the lifeboat, but thought better of it. It would have been arrogance on my part. Four decks below, seawater lapping their ankles, the steerage passengers ran screaming along the labyrinth of corridors.

Alas, the cavalry having charged past, words failed me. I was left peering at that damned screen, fingers poised on the letters and nothing in my head. It was then that I heard noises. Not screams exactly, just raised voices. I actually thought I was being burgled though I couldn't understand why

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Brussels: too bossy for its own good

Paddy Ashdown says members must be allowed to leave the EU

The governance of the European Union is wide, weak and loosely defined, when it ought to be narrow, strong and sharply defined. Both the Conservative and Labour parties will go into the coming election sitting on the fence about Britain's European future. The Tories, facing partition, are paralysed. Labour, equally divided, has decided that safety lies in silence. The Liberal Democrats will stand firm on our long-standing commitment to enlargement, democratic deepening and decentralisation within the European Union — as well as to a referendum on any further change in our constitutional relations with Europe.

Yet while Britain's European debate has been debated by internal party wrangling, the debate on the European mainland has moved on. The key issue in Europe now is about so-called "variable geometry": how the Union is to differentiate between those member states which want to integrate more closely and those which either cannot or choose not to. However superficially attractive "variable geometry" is as a slogan for British Euro-sceptics, it is rather less palatable in the face of lost influence, damaged interests and exclusion from key decisions.

One thing is clear: Germany and its close partners are determined to build a federal core within the existing EU, even if Britain blocks it. So we face the prospect of relegating ourselves to the periphery, along with Europe's weaker states.

This should concentrate the minds of Europhobes and Europhiles alike on the task of defining the essential activities that member states must hold in common. These are the four freedoms of movement — of people, of money, of goods and of services — which form the foundations of the single market.

Consolidation of the single market requires streamlined institutions, capable of understanding and implementing the principle of subsidiarity. This means a Commission able to exercise self-restraint, especially when tempted by suppliant pressure groups to intervene to right some perceived domestic wrong which is none of their business. It also requires a robust Court of Justice to arbitrate disputes.

But we also need a less fussy and less bossy Union, and a new organisation of priorities. There is something profoundly wrong with a Europe which is able to protect us from mouldy cheese and overwork, but not from environmental degradation; a Europe that can stop us selling beef beyond Europe, but cannot stop a war in the Balkans.

A European Union pared down to essentials would have to reconsider its social dimension. There is a natural social dimension to a single market — conditions applying to workers across the European Union — but they must be kept to a minimum. It is on this basis that the Liberal Democrats support the social chap-

ter. Its significance is exaggerated by opponents and proponents alike. If it really were a threat to Britain's enterprise economy, Liberal Democrats would not support it. The real threat is from a steady stream of "social policy" "add-ons" which will continue to come from Brussels if Britain opts out of a central role in the social policy debate.

Europe's early incursions into the social field undoubtedly had beneficial results, particularly on equal opportunities. But that does not necessarily make them right. The only basis for EU involvement in social policy is if it directly affects the single market. In the absence of convincing evidence of cross-border "social dumping", what case is there for EU involvement?

I sometimes fear we are in danger of tying ourselves rigidly to objectives designed in the 1950s, and that our collective effort to enhance the flexibility and competitiveness of Europe's economy is impeded by outmoded orthodoxy.

There are two internal threats to the EU, both driven by an outdated notion of the nation-state. There are the "little nation-states" who want to go back to a Europe of competing nation states, and there are the "big nation-states" who want to turn Europe into one super nation-state. Both are wrong. We have grown out of big government, and we do not want to recreate big government in a centralised, uniform superstate.

The inter-governmental conference could do much to set the European Union on a new track. First, we should simplify and rationalise existing treaties, so that people are more likely to know how they are governed, by whom and from where. Secondly, we should bring all civil liberties issues under the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice — so that British citizens caught up in legal entanglements in other EU countries, for example, are better able to right their wrongs. Thirdly, we should abolish Article 235 — the clause of near "general competence" — to reassure the citizen about the extent of the Union's competences and to stop creeping EU legislation. And fourthly, we should introduce the right of voluntary secession for member states who wish to leave. That, at least, should concentrate the minds of anti-Europeans who have no responsibility to answer the fundamental question: do you want to be in or out?

Here is an agenda for Europe which would at last decisively shift the course of the EU away from the politicians' Europe of the Maastricht process and begin to create a people's Europe which can command wider support and break the fatalism which infects the EU's institutions and its politicians. Here is an agenda which, with British leadership, could win wide support at the inter-governmental conference. Here is an opportunity for us — if only we could lift our heads far enough above the ballot box to see it.

We need a less fussy and less bossy Union



What's the big idea for?

Farewell, you dead and dying -isms.
We shan't miss you at all

Goodbye, then, socialism. Give our regards to communism, and while you're at it remember us to monetarism, Thatcherism, free-marketism and soggy old liberalism. You won't lack for old acquaintances. Conservatism and royalism look like joining you before long in the land of exiled -isms. Keep clear of those horrid twins from over the Irish Sea, Unionism and Republicanism, who with luck will be over shortly to complement such black museum pieces as Fascism and Nazism. Goodbye, all you dead and dying -isms. We shan't have time to miss you, for we have work to do.

I do not presume to go around like some out-price Fukuyama formally announcing "the death of ideology". No such luck: it will be back, it always is. However, it would be nice to think we could announce a brief respite from certain battered, paved-over old political packages. There is something irresistibly exhilarating in the sight of Tony Blair's blithe henchmen spring-cleaning the fusty old union cupboards, shaking out 50 years-worth of rancid fluff, and putting Roy Hattersley out for the bin-men. This new and cavalier attitude to sacred systems obliquely inspired me, yesterday morning, to rip down from the kitchen wall a completely useless year-planner chart covered in incomprehensible dots. Back in hopeful January it seemed like the answer to everything, a one-year plan to reform a chaotic and unsatisfactory life. It didn't work, so rather than sing hymns to it or blame a conspiracy for sabotaging it, I ripped it down, new Labour style, and threw it out. Then I went through my desk discarding the union barons of my life: a hundred nasty scraps of paper representing projects which never matured, ideas which seemed bright at the time, correspondents who have since rung up anyway, embryonic books whose moment has passed and memories best left to fade. Out with it, all of it! Clear the decks, roll back the carpet, give us space to think again!

This exhilaration was slightly dimmed by the severe line taken by this paper's leader-writer yesterday when he informed Mr Blair that his views (not a bad set, it always seems to me: optimistic, kindly, commonsensical, practical) are "so commonplace as to be almost meaningless". Therefore, he was told, if he wishes to win the confidence of party and

electorate he must "be more specific about his new ideology". I tried to agree: a humble elector, anxious to understand what the real political thinkers, the big boys, are on about. Gosh, yes, perhaps he really ought to define more closely what constitutes Blairism...

Suddenly I thought, why? Why bother? What is wrong with having ideas which are "commonplace" when you are supposed to represent the common man? What is so wonderful about being specific in your ideology, and what is so heinous about being flexible, pragmatic, and receptive to changing needs? What good have "systems" of political thought done us, or any nation on earth? They are fine in the textbooks, but out in the air they fester. Communism becomes corrupt and toxic, socialism leads to stupid doctrinaire political correctness and debilitating welfarism; trade unionism to the kind of craziness which last week loudly demanded full employment rights for every worker, including casual and part-time, from the very first day of employment (so making the prospect of employing anyone at all, ever, too frightening to contemplate).

On the other hand, the Right need not look smug: its sacred cows have generally gone mad too. Monetarism led us into a massive recession. Thatcherism to the very expensive debacle of the poll tax and — worse — to a sense of enraged alienation in great swathes of the population. Deregulation mania created lunatic bus rivalry to choke up towns such as Oxford; reaching the animal feed industry, it gave the world BSE. The obsession with privatisation has led to repeated utility scandals and to the incipient ruin of the national railway system, the Post Office, and quite likely the BBC.

You can see how it happens: small successes lead on to great foul-ups because theory outruns practicality. Drunk on the experience of Telecom — a rapidly changing high-tech in-

dustry ideal for privatisation and able to sell ever newer gimmicks and add-ons — Thatcherite Conservatism moved on to try the same trick on such wildly unsuitable subjects for market forces as the water supply and the cleaning of hospitals.

Back on the Left again, workers' rights were a grand thing to fight for at the beginning, but once the fervour about them was divorced from sense, it led to crazy strikes (remember the 1970s; the great British Leyland cat-droppings strike; the smelly work-male strike!) It led to bodies unburied and rats in the streets and the setting of brother against brother. Oppose doctrinaire unionism with its equally stubborn opposite and I guarantee you will get nowhere at all. It is not a reasonable dispute about wages, but the intransigence of two clashing systems of belief which is the reason the trains keep on stopping for a day at a time and making us all miserable.

It is like the folk-tale about the boy who kept getting his errands wrong. Told to lead a chicken home from market on a string one day, the next day he was sent for butter and dragged that on a string too. Left or Right, all these ideologies began with good ideas: about giving due dignity to working people, protecting the weak, not spending beyond your means, or using the energy of private entrepreneurs to ginger up dull-witted state monopolies.

The trouble is that politicians, needing to cling together in tribes, looking always to "our people", do not dare to cherry-pick the best ideas, use them while they work and dump them when they don't. The moment Mr Blair shows signs of doing exactly this, there is a wail of protest from both sides: Labour diehards say he is selling out, Tories that he is stealing their clothes and therefore must be insane. Why? Surely the sensible thing is to accept ideas that are appropriate to the moment and the circumstances. Pick the good cher-

ries, and leave the rest for the birds. If, looking at the here-and-now, new Labour thinks that opted-out schools and new union laws are working pretty well, why not keep them? Why is it cause for consternation, if it is prepared to start a new administration not from some idealised spot in the past but from where we actually are now? Conversely, why can't Conservatives think socialist thoughts sometimes, and act on them, without losing face or having to flee across the floor in a storm of jeering?

I suppose that a craving for over-ready systems runs too deep in all of us ever to be eradicated. Look at the slimming industry: rather than just eating sensibly and taking brisk walks, we become convinced that food combining or seaweed wraps are the secret. Rather than apply a bit of discipline to a deskful of rubbish, we buy personal organisers and time-management systems we never quite master. Rather than evaluate the needs of individual children, we look for a school which turns out a finished product at the right level of the league table. There is even a flourishing ladies' industry in which masterful ladies buy your clothes, decorate your house and even choose your paintings for you.

Millions are made, and rulers elected, because of the temptation to buy packages. Even though we have communications and education without precedent, we are still treated like the subjects of forcible mass-conversion by each crusader in turn. Lazily we collude: "I've always been a socialist", "I'm a true-blue Conservative" or "I'm not political". Boring! Futile! Meaningless!

I have nothing against principles as long as they are basic enough: but why are we dissatisfied with the solid ground of human and Christian kindness, logic, and evidence? It is fair enough to want signposts — history and philosophy and single noble sayings such as America's Declaration of Independence. But we clamour for marked tracks, then for tramlines; and at last we fall for the circular, safety-belted thrill of coasting all the way to nowhere on a theme-park ride designed by ideologues and prettied up by spin-doctors. Let me off! I want to walk! More to the point, I want Mr Blair to, Or Mr Major. Come to think of it, one thing indubitably in his favour is that all attempts to talk of "Majorism" have failed. That's my boy.

How we blocked the bullies

Woodrow Wyatt recalls the union battles of the 1950s

The halcyon days of Labour Party and union alliance were when Attlee was Prime Minister. Ernie Bevin, ruler of the giant Transport and General Workers' Union, was the best Foreign Secretary since the war. Even when in the War Cabinet as Minister of Labour he supervised the T&GWU; and Arthur Deakin, his successor, never fell out with Attlee. Union leaders such as Sam Watson of the miners powerfully supported the Government, using their block votes at conferences and their seats on Labour's national executive to squash tiresome left-wingers. Unions were felt to be a good thing, as was their collaboration with Attlee's team to remedy many social injustices. The unions' closeness to the Labour Party, which they created to get political representation, was not an electoral problem.

The rise of Communist and far Left influence in the unions began to change the public mood, particularly with their drive towards nuclear disarmament. Voters were alarmed when Gaitskill was routed on the issue by the coalition led by Frank Cousins. Gaitskill, to whom I was very close, asked me to attack Cousins. I did, calling him "the bully with the block vote". This caused a mild uproar and earned me the permanent enmity of Cousins and the Left. Union leaders were becoming drunk with power procured through low turnouts from apathetic members in often rigged union elections. There was no secret postal ballot.

Out of Parliament from 1955 to 1959, I revealed the corrupt practices on *Panorama* and in the press. The most spectacular case was the Electricity Union run by the Communist Party. I made a *Panorama* broadcast aimed at members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union at the request of Bill Carron, who was standing for president, pointing out that they were fully entitled to vote for Communists, but they should be aware that if too few non-Communists voted, the union would be taken over by them. Voting increased just enough to defeat the Communist candidates for the three top posts.

I was approached by Jack Byrne, the only non-Communist official left in the Electricians' Union. It was brave of him. Expulsion for discussing union affairs with outsiders was automatic. Byrne had been defeated several times in national union elections by brazen ballot-rigging. For example, Blackpool recorded five votes for Byrne and 695 for the Communist, yet only 559 members were entitled to vote. The Dorking branch had 206 members; in the second ballot, Byrne had 20 votes and the Communist 189; and so forth.

As well as making television broadcasts, I gave the evidence to the General Council of the TUC, which refused to act. It did not want its dirty linen washed in public, and in any case the Electricians' Communist leaders, Haxell and Foulkes, always kept their word to the TUC General Council, who did not give a damn how they got their posts. It took nine years to take the case to court, where the fraudulent Communists were removed. The Electricians and the AEU were the first unions to accept my suggestion of secret postal ballots.

This was the basis of the eventual union reforms which were urged upon Margaret Thatcher by myself and a former Communist, Frank Chapple of the Electricians. It took longer than it should have done, for Tory ministers were reluctant to overrule officials who had cosy relations with the union leaders. Thanks to Mrs Thatcher, strikes almost vanished as union leaders became more representative of their members' views and ceased, in the main, to order them to strike when they did not want to. Previously, disobedience to union leaders meant expulsion and unemployment, as the closed shop system allowed only union members to be employed.

Now, with the prospect of another Labour government, the old devil stirs within the hearts of union leaders and strikes are increasing. In 1979 it was guilt by association with the crippling strikes of the Wilson-Callaghan era that did for Labour. So Tony Blair is publicly cutting the links, and tells us he is not a socialist but a social democrat. Bold stuff — but I don't think he'll get away with it. However it is dressed up, unions still pay more than half of labour's central and local expenses. Some 4.1 million union members voluntarily pay a political levy of around 12 pence a year. These are decent old-fashioned people who believe in a perpetual war against capitalism.

Since Blair says he will pay no more attention to labour than to business or other pressure groups, several million disgusted political leavers among the old Labour faithful may well not vote at all; or instead of voting for Mr Blair, the imitation Tory, educated at a grand public school and Oxford, may cross over to John Major, the real Tory who had to leave school at 16. Union-bashing will not win Blair more votes from middle-class wets already in his pocket. Raising the fury and disgust of properly elected union leaders and their sympathisers in and outside the unions is one of Mr Blair's biggest blunders.

Wills clash

ATHINLY VEILED satirical work purporting to be Prince William's diary of his first year at Eton has been scratched weeks before publication. Publishing sources suggest that Buckingham Palace may have objected to the book.

Just William: An Eton Diary was due to hit bookshelves next month. However, it has now been withdrawn by Pavilion, the publishing company founded by Sir Tim Rice and Michael Parkinson. Pavilion's autumn catalogue puffs the book, by the journalist and OE Will Buckley, as a diary written by a "13-year-old boy from a famously broken home... sent by his warring parents to Eton".

The boy is described as "intimidated, disorientated... sweet-natured, bright, yet slightly academically under-powered". One scene features him wrecking a science lab; in another he recounts a call from "Great Granny who was very jolly, tho' I could tell she was a bit tired 'cos she kept slurring her words". Great Granny also warns young William of the perils of taking showers with other boys.

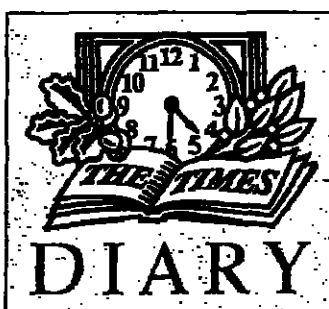
The book features other characters such as Soames, "the jolly,

rotund place-man put in by his father", and Dempster, "an oily, terrifying prefect".

Buckingham Palace insists that no pressure was applied, and Buckley refuses to comment. But a publishing friend tipped me the winks: "You know how sensitive everyone is about even photographing William at the moment." Pavilion dismisses the fiasco, saying it was caused by "contractual problems".



"Any other experience?"



● Aramis Fuster, Spain's answer to Mystic Meg, has good news for the Queen. "The British Royal Family has now entered a period of great stability," she writes in the magazine *Timeo*. "We are going to witness a time of emotional recovery and family reconciliation. I predict tranquility."

i.m. G.B.

JOHN REDWOOD was strutting peacock-like yesterday after his bowling performance in a cricket match between Euro-sceptic and Euro-friendly parliamentarians. Victory, by five wickets, went to the Sceptics who concluded the event with a ceremonial burning of the Maastricht treaty. Redwood took the star turn with two wickets for four runs off three overs. Bill Cash neither batted nor

bowled, but that didn't prevent one craven Sceptic from remarking that he played brilliantly.

The ashes of Maastricht are now contained in an urn which will soon bear an inscription based on the report in *Sporting Times* in 1882 of England's defeat at the hands of Australia: "In affectionate remembrance of British sovereignty, which died at Westminster on 2 August 1993 [when the treaty was ratified], deeply lamented by a large circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances. R.I.P."

● Michael Jackson's tour of Russia is causing concern among the country's forward-looking conservatives. "NB The body will be cremated and the Ashes taken to Brussels."



Monumentally wacko

spondents. "He has started bringing huge statues of himself on his tours," writes Leonid Zakharov of *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, "made in the worst tradition of totalitarian monumentalism. The only thing he still lacks is a mausoleum with the letters JACKSON, and an honour guard."

Asda them...

THE FIGHT among Conservatives for Tunbridge Wells, a constituency vacated by Sir Patrick Mayhew at the next election, promises to be the liveliest of the Tory "chicken run". On the candidates' shortlist are the preening former minister, Alan Clark; the following Dame Janet Fookes, MP for Plymouth; and Archie "The Grocer" Norman, the rigorously ambitious chief executive of Asda.

Clark has been downright ungallant about Dame Janet, claiming in his diaries that she has a "vast arse", and that when in the Commons she always "sits, massively, in the camera-hogging spot just behind the PM". Tunbridge Wells is disgusted.

Norman, the current favourite, is also losing ground. After years of sharing Sir Patrick Mayhew with the Cabinet, the constituency is keen to find a stay-at-home MP. It is feared that Norman may



Fookes: size counts

spend more time with his business in Leeds and in Westminster than jawing over European straight-banana rulings with the local activists.

● No slouch in the marketing game is Norma Major, who publishes her account of the history of *Chequers* this month. While at Balmoral with her husband this week, she presented the Queen with the first copy of her new work.

P.H.S



RESTLESS REGIONS

The message of the Po for the Clyde and the Rhine

Umberto Bossi's proclamation of an "independent Padania" in Venice on Sunday was a summer shower. His Northern League's predictions that a million people would flock to its three-day "march" down the River Po proved greatly exaggerated. This latest political stunt cannot be likened to Mussolini's March on Rome, a comparison which his paraded green-shirts seemed openly to invite. And yet the appeal of the separatist libretto he has written should not be dismissed because of the farce attendant on this first performance; the discontents that he is seeking to harness are real and they are not confined to Italians.

Padania is not Catalonia, or even Scotland. The old city-states of Milan, Parma, Mantua and Venice share neither common dynastic histories nor a common institutional heritage that marks them out from the rest of Italy. It is an anti-historical construct; the League cannot even agree on its frontiers. But behind Signor Bossi's opportunistic myth-making is the reality of the North as Italy's dynamic economic core. Northern regionalism, expressed in demands for federal autonomy, was also conjured into existence by Signor Bossi in little over a decade, seemingly out of thin air. It has become a fact of political life; the idea that Italy could become as federal in its system of government as Germany, once unthinkable, is no longer even divisive. Signor Bossi's talent for publicity has now secured a place in the political vocabulary for separatism as well.

His campaign has undoubtedly drawn strength from circumstances peculiar to Italy, notably rising exasperation with Rome's postwar succession of weak, inefficient and corrupt central governments and resentment that the rich North was underwriting the chronically poor and Mafia-ridden Mezzogiorno. But regionalism as a political trend also reflects economic realities. All across the single European market, national borders count for less and less; for example, although Italy south of the Apennines remains a far more important market than Signor Bossi admits, Austria,

Slovakia and even Slovenia have become growth areas for the three Veneto regions, while Piedmont's economic ties are increasingly with France and Switzerland.

From "Padania" to Bavaria, European monetary union feeds into regionalist ambitions. Signor Bossi is at his most astute in playing the EMU card, asserting that prosperous independent Padania could make the European premier league with ease were it not shackled to Rome and the South. More broadly, he contends that as power gravitates to Brussels—a proposition that Italians, unlike Britons, find both natural and reassuring—the European Union will render national governments powerless anachronisms. As a European identity develops to the detriment of nationalism, he claims, the future will lie in a federation of self-governing European regions. Many Scots would agree.

The Italian Government, alive to the danger, has promised tax and other concessions and, for the longer run, set up an bicameral commission on constitutional reforms. But if it is to halve Italy's budget deficit within two years, it can ill afford to surrender control of income and expenditure to the regions. And the constitutional reforms will take at least two years to approve and must then be put to a national referendum. That leaves Signor Bossi, or politicians more respectable than he, plenty of time to build support for his "Czechoslovak solution"—outright divorce.

Above all in those European countries which, like Germany, Italy and Belgium, were unified only in the 19th century, weak national governments are exceptionally vulnerable to this sort of talk now that the Cold War's external threat has receded. Italy, where Cavour's grand liberal vision has never been fully absorbed into the collective psyche, may be especially prone to regional restiveness; but even Helmut Kohl has to keep a careful eye on Munich. Italy has not for some time been a political trend-setter for Europe; but other governments may still have to reckon with Bossi of their own.

DOLEFUL POLITICS

The Republican campaign is wielding the wrong weapons

Bob Dole's attempt to repackage himself as the champion of American family values is surprising only in that it has come so late in the day, just seven weeks before the presidential elections. But the relaunch is unlikely to save him; indeed, it represents a second tactical error in a faltering campaign.

Mr Dole's first mistake was to make economic performance the focus of his early attacks on President Clinton. A month after the Republican convention, those themes have won him little new support. Voters have so far cast a cold eye on his pledge to return America to its economic golden age, raising annual growth from the present level of 2.3 per cent to 3.5 per cent by 2002.

Many find this claim implausible, believing that state taxes will promptly rise to compensate for the proposed cuts at a federal level, or that interest rates will rise in response to a widening budget deficit. Others do not care: the "feel-good" factor is stronger than it has been for years, and after two quarters of exceptionally strong growth, the Federal Reserve Bank is on the verge of pushing up interest rates. Against that backdrop, it is not surprising that Mr Dole's economic message has had little resonance.

In theory, the themes of family values and morality should prove more fruitful territory for him. The electorate is acutely concerned about crime and drug abuse; Mr Dole will point to regions where these have risen under the Clinton Administration. He has recourse to a bounty chest of examples of presidential inconsistency. Not least, he can raise more directly the question of the "character" of Mr Clinton and his colleagues, a euphemism for the allegations of sex and sleaze hanging over the team.

Yet these new weapons may not win Mr Dole much ground. Democrats will brandish their own list of drug-fighting pro-

grammes and claim that these would be jeopardised by Republican spending cuts. As for character, when voters elected Mr Clinton they knew many of his faults; that image has since been elaborated but not profoundly changed. Nor does the Whitewater affair appear to have seriously tarnished Mr Clinton in the public eye; short of an indictment of the President or his wife, it does not seem an electoral liability.

It is even possible that Mr Dole will find that the character issue backfires. Voters dislike personal attacks by one politician on another. What is more, judged by what is ordinarily understood by "character"—resilience, ability to recover from adversity, not to mention charisma and charm—Mr Clinton has his rival beaten.

The better strategy for Mr Dole might have been to concentrate on the factors which gave the Republicans their triumph at the mid-term elections. The fiasco of the healthcare reforms proposed by Hillary Clinton has been surprisingly neglected in Republican rhetoric; instead, Mr Dole has allowed the President too much rein to portray himself as the saviour of Medicare and Medicaid. The issues which plagued the early months of the Clinton Administration, such as the proposal to allow homosexuals to serve in the military, might have more electoral mileage than the Republicans have tried to extract. Some of Mr Clinton's first appointments to his team might also be held up as evidence of poor judgment.

It is unfortunate for Mr Dole that shrewd tactics might not now save him. But that does not mean that Republicans should jettison or neglect arguments which served them so well just two years ago. There is all the difference between humiliating rout, sacrificing established principles, and honourable defeat.

INTO THE GAP

Students were not sent into the world entirely for pleasure

For a few delicious moments after the last A-level exam has finished students can sit back, laze in the sun and toss their swot sheets of facts and quotes into the waste basket. Anticlimax soon follows. Idleness can prove dull, and prospective university entrants dream instead of adventures. For many, as we have been reporting this week, the prospect of taking a year off is increasingly attractive. Here is a chance to see the world and satisfy youthful idealism with voluntary service in steamy climes. The gap year would seem to combine the 18th-century Grand Tour with the new necessity to have something eye-catching for the CV.

The gap year is a peculiarly British concept: on the Continent the aim is to start university as soon as possible in order to graduate early and start earning. The gap year was largely a by-product of the year was largely a by-product of the Oxbridge practice of setting entrance examinations in December for entry the following autumn. The harnessing of this enforced free time for good works was given enforced free time for good works was given a boost by Voluntary Service Overseas, one of the first bodies to involve young people in post-colonial development work. School-leavers were sent to Africa or Asia and given enormous responsibility.

VSO has moved on, now taking only graduates and professionals. But the idea of matching school idealism with the needs of developing countries is still powerfully attractive, and agencies have sprung up to continue the link, refining it to avoid the early pitfalls—cultural shock, patronising attitudes or exploitative situations.

The year overseas, however, is something of a luxury; only a fraction of those hoping to enter university have the money, initiative and stamina. But the spirit of voluntarism can be equally tested and developed at home. Thousands would like to have a framework to put into practice their commitment to the environment or concern for the aged. Universities should encourage as many as possible to defer entry to give students some of the maturity and worldly experience said to have been among the best benefits of National Service. What is less worthwhile, though temptingly common, is the frittered year, where beer-drinking, waiting and inter-railing usually add little to youthful idealism and a lot to the parental budget. A gap year is not a vacant year; it is the gap between childhood and adult responsibility, and should be a mind-broadening transition.

Monarch's role as "last taboo"

From Professor Stephen Haseler

Sir, The meeting today at Balmoral of the Royal Family and their advisers (report, September 16) is to be welcomed as a belated recognition that not all is well with the institution of monarchy. Yet it is also a sad commentary upon the state of our democracy.

This royal get-together is rumoured to be addressing such crucial constitutional questions as the relations between the State and the Catholic Church, the disestablishment of the Church and the State's role in financing the Royal Family. Yet this Balmoral event, which raises issues which will affect us all as citizens, remains very much a family affair.

The royals evidently believe that our future constitution can best be discussed, even determined, by unelected persons (and their shadowy unelected advisers) behind closed doors.

In any democracy worth its salt these great constitutional issues would be determined by discussion and debate amongst the people's representatives. "We the people", through our Parliament, should be the arbiters of constitutional change, not an unelected family which has a vested interest in the outcome.

The fact is that the Royal Family is taking advantage of the vacuum created by the continued refusal of our politicians to get to grips with the issue of monarchy.

None of our major political parties—not the "radical" Liberals nor even "modernising" Labour—wants the issue of monarchy to surface before the election. Yet, sooner or later, should we in Britain want a constitution fit for the 21st century, Parliament, not the Royal Family, will have to address this last taboo.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN HASELER (Chairman),
Republican (The Republican Society),
PO Box 2698, London W14 9ZT.
September 16.

Circuit judges

From His Honour
Derek Clarkson, QC

Sir, I support Sir Louis Blom-Cooper's view (letter, September 10) that the introduction of circuit judges into the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) is not working out as well as was intended.

A further consideration is this: by statute, no circuit judge of any rank may participate in any hearing on appeal from a Crown Court trial by a High Court judge. The preservation of *amour propre*, to which Sir Louis refers, doubtless led to this provision.

Surely, the expertise and good sense of those recruited from the circuit bench are just as relevant and helpful at the hearing of any criminal appeal, provided that (i) the presiding member delivers any judgment that entails direct criticism of the trial judge, of whatever rank; and (ii) on an appeal from a High Court judge, the judgment is never delivered by the circuit judge member.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK CLARKSON,
72a Cornwall Road,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
September 10.

From Mrs Elizabeth Gaskell Syms

Sir, Sir Louis Blom-Cooper opens the whole issue of relationships and conflicts of interest within the legal system.

In the civil courts the judiciary, who whilst practising at the Bar received all their work from solicitors, also have to sit in judgment on solicitors' conduct; and as deputy judges, practising barristers can preside over divisional appeals involving solicitors' conduct. In the county court solicitors themselves have control of such cases as district and deputy judges.

Questions of partiality are as uncomfortable as criticism of colleagues and do nothing to enhance public confidence in the legal system.

Yours faithfully,
E. N. GASKELL SYMS,
86 Victoria Road,
Barnet, Hertfordshire.
September 11.

Investment in UK

From Mr Kevin McCormick

Sir, Mr Richard Page, Minister at the DTI, rightly points to Britain's success in attracting inward investment (letter, September 12). He says there are many reasons for this and lists six, including competitive labour costs, low taxation, advanced skills and incentives. But he fails to mention the single most important reason, which is, in my view, our membership of the European Union.

He says the government is not complacent about the growing competition for inward investment, and that it has "all the factors in place to ensure the UK a healthy future in the field of inward investment".

However, the recent government attitude towards the European Union puts our continued membership in doubt. This must be affecting future inward investment decisions already. It is easy to imagine what would happen to recent inward investment if we actually left the Union.

Yours sincerely,
KEVIN MCCORMICK,
43 Chapstow Rise,
Park Hill, Croydon, Surrey.
September 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

How business would work with new Labour in power

From the Shadow Minister for Trade and Industry

Sir, New Labour will take up the challenge of Lord Hanson (article, September 10; see also letters, September 12 and 14) to show him what we are about before he casts his vote.

The noble Lord has clearly been too preoccupied with the demerger of Hanson Industries to notice the corporate governance changes that have been taking place around him, as recommended by the Cadbury and Greenbury committees, and the concerns echoed by Viscount Caldecote (letter, September 14). Lord Hanson seems still to believe we live in a bygone era of wealthy individual shareholders running their investments; but nowadays listed companies are owned by institutional investors.

Lord Hanson has great experience of the United States. He should know that institutional investors there issue codes of practice by way of guidelines to cover shareholders' rights and proxy voting, executive compensation, the performance of the chief executive, strategic planning, fiduciary oversight and social responsibility. They do so because they believe these will enhance shareholder value within the stakeholder economy.

Viscount Caldecote's suggestions—that institutional shareholders should accept their fiduciary responsibilities as effective owners of listed companies, that self-regulation is not working and that there is need for legislation—mirror not only the views of new Labour but those of many City institutions. These are not ideological matters but matters based on common sense and a feel for what is going on.

We are gratified that Lord Hanson's brick companies have accepted the principle of works councils (report, Business, September 12). We shall seek to build a consensus around our proposals for a new Companies Act and voluntary codes of practice, as recommended by Cadbury and Greenbury, and assure Lord Hanson that in new Labour's battle for hearts and minds he will not be forgotten.

Yours faithfully,
STUART BELL,
House of Commons.
September 15.

Protection from invasions of privacy

From Mr Keir Starmer and others

Sir, Norma Major is right to call for tough privacy laws (report, September 16), but the aim of any new legislation should not be merely to protect the rich and famous.

In a recently completed review of law and practice on compliance in the UK with international human rights standards we highlight the inability of the courts to protect all citizens against invasions of their privacy.

Respect for private and family life is enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights, originally drafted in Whitehall. Yet when it was ratified in 1951 the UK refused to consider whether our law and practice needed modification to comply with the obligations it was taking on.

Secret army

From Mr W. G. McPherson

Sir, It was with mixed feelings that I read your report (September 7) on the special wartime force, the Auxiliary Units. I was recruited to form a seven-man unit in 1940 and we served until stood down in 1944. We were never a part of the Home Guard, although we wore their uniform for cover.

It has always been a regret to us that we could not take part in Remembrance Day services, having no tangible evidence to show we were entitled to do so. Too late now: to the best of my knowledge all my men are gone. I am the only one left.

If medals are to be issued to surviving members of the Auxiliary Units it would surely only be right that they also be given to the relatives of those who are gone.

I am Sir, yours respectfully,
W. G. MCPHERSON
(Sergeant, Scottish Auxiliary Units),
37 Granary Street,
Huntly, Aberdeenshire.
September 10.

From Mrs J. W. Lymbery

Sir, The Auxiliary Units were not the only people trained as resistance fighters.

Carbon monoxide

From Ms Stephanie Trotter

Sir, Congratulations to Dr Thomas Stuttaford for drawing attention to the correct sleeping position for babies to reduce the risk of cot death ("Know the right way to put your baby to sleep", September 11).

He also warned that smoking in pregnancy, or even in the same house as a baby, increases the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Cigarette smoke contains carbon monoxide, a lethal poison even in very small amounts, which is 200 to 250 times more attractive to the haemoglobin in the blood than oxygen.

Low doses give rise to flu-like symptoms, headaches and nausea and can cause brain damage. SIDS babies are often "unwell" for 48 hours before the event and, like adult carbon monoxide deaths, a higher proportion of SIDS deaths occur in the winter months.

From Mr Eric Bellenie

Sir, The President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, MP (letter, September 14), asserts that: "We have more of our population of working age in employment than any other major EU country... our unemployment rate is far below the EU average."

Well, up to a point.

Since, unlike ourselves, most EU countries do not practise age discrimination in employment, what can Mr Lang mean by "working age"? After all, his colleague, Peter Bottomley, MP, has recently volunteered (in *honour* Tory tradition) that there are at least two million unemployed men and women who don't feature in the Government's unemployment statistics because they are disqualified from collecting unemployment benefit or jobseeker's allowance.

Mr Bottomley neglected to mention

Reasons to vote

From Mr William Hutton

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("Demon eyes are not scaring anyone", September 9) rightly concludes that John Major must give people reasons to vote for the Tories, not just reasons not to vote.

May I suggest that support could have been sustainable if the party had not suffered too many areas of private enterprise to fall into disrepute. The continuing failure to deal with abuses of privilege, from shenanigans in corporate boardrooms to light-fingered gentry in the City, falls hard with the majority of our people who, day by day, man the essential industries and services which alone guarantee prosperity.

Without adequate regulation, private enterprise can too easily degenerate into pirate enterprise: the consumer then walks the plank.

Great parties can only prosper on great ideas and the Tory party needs some quickly.

Yours faithfully,
W. T. HUTTON,
8 Sutherland Avenue,
Peters Wood, Orpington, Kent.
September 9.

the extra half million or so men and women aged over 50 who wish, or need, to work but are forced into early retirement each year on 10 per cent of their expected pension.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC BELLENIE
(Chairman,
The Over-Fifties' Association),
29 Hill Court, The Ridings, W5,
September 14.

From Dr Marilyn Orcharton

Sir, As the owner of a small business marketing managing systems to other small businesses, I cannot accept the claim by Barbara Roche, Shadow Minister for Small Businesses (letter, September 12), that "Labour has put forward... sensible and innovative ideas to help small businesses become more competitive".

If a Labour government imposes the regulations of the social chapter and a minimum wage, then most of the UK's 3.5 million "micro" business owners would shed at least one employee and work even longer hours themselves.

Although many of these businesses make modest profits, if any, they are an excellent springboard for new entrepreneurs.

The employees are totally involved with all the difficulties and realities of selling a product or service which satisfies customers. The young people they employ may not be paid high wages but the "hands-on" training they receive is far more valuable than any academic "programme for employment" as proposed by Labour.

This country needs more wealth creators and more risk-taking entrepreneurs. There is no evidence that Tony Blair has the slightest understanding of this, let alone a willingness to support small businesses by freeing up regulations and reducing tax burdens on businesses, including punitive capital taxes, as the Conservatives have done.

Yours faithfully,
MARILYN ORCHARTON,
Kite (quality assurance and management consultants),
7 Lynedoch Place, Glasgow 3.
September 13.

Vintage and veteran

From Mr Rupert Prior

Sir, Assuming your headline, "Veteran rolls on through years" (later editions, September 13), refers to the motor car rather than the owner, Doris Pearson's pride and joy, a 1927 Ricardo-designed Vauxhall 14/40 "Princeton" tourer, is in fact a product of the vintage era of motoring history.

The veteran period of manufacture persisted until 1904, and between the veteran and the vintage was the so-called Edwardian period. The vintage era, reckoned by arbitrary definition to have started with the recommendation of motor manufacture after the First World War, covers little more than a decade and was effectively killed off by the 1929 world depression.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT PRIOR,
Sotheby's Car Department,
34-35 New Bond Street, W1.
September 13.

Safety in numbers

From Mr M. J. Godfree

Sir, The chairman of Jaguar is to be congratulated for realising that by 2020 motorways are likely to have tracks for vehicle guidance and distance-keeping (News in brief, September 11). Capacity and safety could be further improved by temporarily fastening the vehicles together.

It seems he has just reinvented the railway, and acknowledged that it is safer, more energy efficient and makes better use of our scarce land than a motorway. Let us hope that a pragmatic combination of the two systems will enable the advantages of both to be realised.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. GODFREE,
26 Rangemore Close,
Mickleover, Derbyshire.
September 13.

Travelling miserably

From Mr Hans J. Bye-Jorgensen

Sir, Lord Tugendhat (letter, September 7; see also letter, September 13) seems unaware that the reason French roads are virtually free of cones is that they are properly designed and built. The French understand that the foundation as well as the surface must be well drained to provide a stable structure. Their roads have good ditches on both sides.

Yours faithfully,
HANS J. BYE-JORGENSEN,
Kingswear House, Church Hill,
Kingswear, Dartmouth, Devon.
September 16.

Ticking away

From Dr Georges Ware

Sir, I received this morning a mailshot offering "funeral expenses insurance" which includes my choice of coffin, funeral director and certain other expenses. It also promises a free travel alarm clock.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGES WARE,
85 Cranbrook Road, Redland, Bristol.
September 10.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Small firms to take on different role by 2006

By BRIAN COLLETT

MORE small businesses will be dependent on large companies in ten years' time. They will be contracted to supply corporations, losing some of their traditional independence.

The reliance, however, will work both ways and small businesses will become increasingly indispensable to larger firms.

Ted Fuller, director of the Small Business Foresight Programme at Durham University Business School, has built up a picture of small business in 2006. Mr Fuller will be among speakers at the Foresight team's London conference next month on the business scene in 2006.

Mr Fuller said the small business role was already changing. "It has been seen almost as a panacea for unemployment," he said. "Now it is more of a motor in the economy." He expected many more spin-off businesses of limited life to serve specific projects, run by partnerships of large and small companies.

Many businesses will be created by staff leaving large employers through redundancy or early retirement, predicted Mark Scott, of the small business services department of NatWest, which sponsors the Durham team. He said that the average age of people forming businesses would be higher because large companies seek younger employees, and young unemployed people are more likely to find work.

NatWest research shows that this is already happening — the average age of people starting up in 1988 was 33, but by 1991 it was 38. The result, said Mr Scott, would be a higher survival rate, because older people would have wider experience.

Another development would be a growth in niche markets as people sought more unusual themes or followed fashions, said Mr Scott. "The bank may need specialised managers to look after them," he said. He also expects more women entrepreneurs to level up the present 70/30 ratio.

The conference, sponsored by Microsoft, will be at the Royal Society on Thursday, October 17. The fee is £250 plus VAT. Details: 091-374 2258.

Advisers get a lesson in needs of the blind entrepreneur

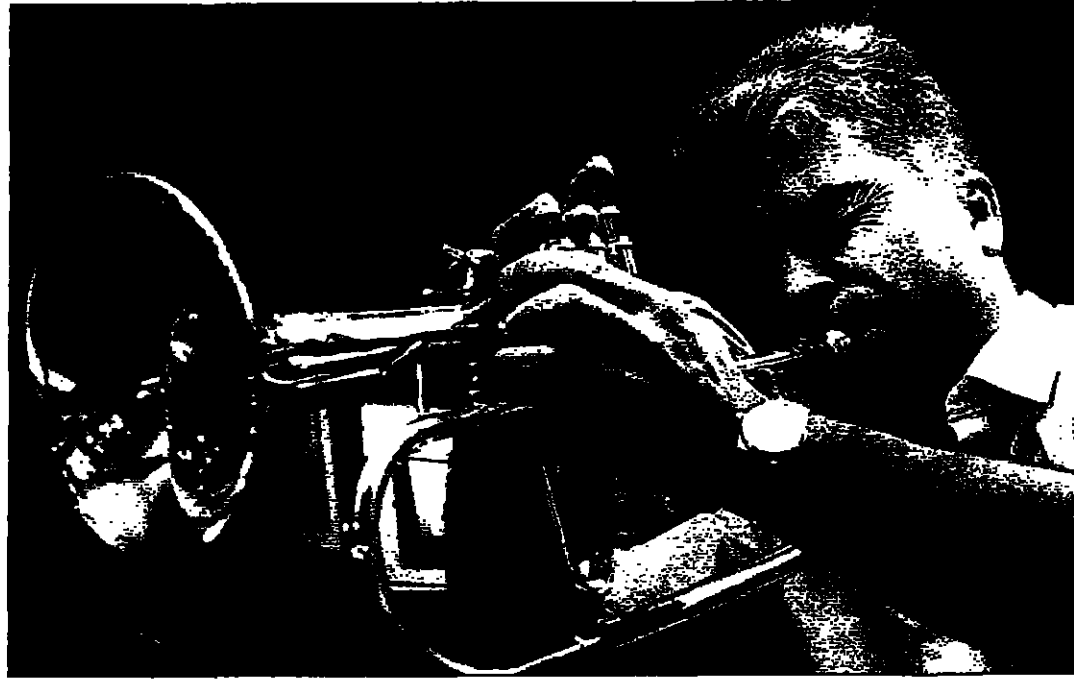
By JENNAI COX

A TRAINING programme to show business advisers how to help the blind and the partially sighted to set up their own businesses has been launched by the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB). Funded with a £188,000 National Lottery Charities Board grant over two years, the scheme aims to show organisations that provide advice and money for entrepreneurs the problems that visually-impaired people have to overcome.

A greater proportion of business set up by blind and partially-sighted entrepreneurs are still going after three years than is the case with businesses started by the sighted. Yet access to continuing advice from banks and training and enterprise councils (TECs), one of the key ways of preventing business failure, is rarely presented in a way that they can use.

Lack of venture capital, needing help with marketing and difficulties with mobility are some of the barriers that the sight-impaired come up against. Because they cannot see advertisements, most have little idea of competition, and information on assistance available to business is rarely provided in braille. Tecas also tend to target companies of more than 250 people, says Ann Boylan, manager of the RNIB's self-employment development unit. "So, if you are small and blind, nobody wants to listen," she says.

However, the biggest barrier, according to Ms Boylan, is persuading people that the blind are as capable as the sighted. "Perceptions are the worst barrier," she said.



Nick Hall says that his belief in himself musically has helped him to overcome blindness

"People regard visually impaired people as lacking intelligence, but there are also the perceptions within the individual. They get so used to being perceived as incapable that they become dejected."

A video being launched with the training project, which will be piloted in Birmingham and London before going nationwide, features some of the estimated 9,000 visually impaired people who have succeeded in business on their own. These include a physiotherapist, an engineer, a cycle mechanic, a wood turner and a dress designer. How-

ever, for all of them, there are thousands who have been left by the wayside, Ms Boylan says.

She said: "The solution lies in training advisers to recognise the potential of blind and partially-sighted people. They are key contributors to the economy and all of them very determined to succeed."

Nick Hall, 39, who lost his sight 18 years ago, says that his belief in himself musically has helped him to overcome his disability. Flugelhorn and trumpet music that he has written and recorded is used on the training video. "A visual handi-

cap does not have to be a problem," he says. "Getting known is just a very long process."

At the start of each training day, a series of which start in London on September 25, the participating advisers will be handed a list of aims for the day — written in braille. "From the start, they will not know what is going on," Ms Boylan says. "We are reversing what happens to many of our clients."

After watching the video, there will be role-playing in which participants will be blindfolded, a discussion of myths and facts about being

blind and a plan drawn up of how a visually impaired person should be interviewed. Each person will also be asked to draw up an audit of their company's attitudes to sight-impaired people. The RNIB hopes to have 500 business advisers trained by the end of the first year.

Because of the difficulties that they face getting and retaining a job, many visually impaired people prefer to work for themselves. In a recent survey, 50 per cent of employers said that they would not hire anyone with "difficulty in seeing".

Of the 100,820 blind and partially sighted people of working age in the United Kingdom, around two thirds do not have a job and more than half have not worked for ten years.

Having their own business puts the visually impaired in control and gives them independence, Ms Boylan says. There is more job satisfaction and they do not have to put up with physical barriers or discriminatory attitudes in the workplace. "For many, though, there is no other option," she says.

RNIB awareness weeks, from September 9 to 15, involved urging the Government to look at weaknesses in the Disability Discrimination Act, which comes into effect on December 2, such as the exemption of small firms from its scope. However, overall the RNIB remains optimistic. Ann Boylan says: "Our blind and partially sighted clients demonstrate time and time again that anything is possible."

For information on the training awareness days, call the RNIB self-employment development unit on 0171-388 1266 ext 2224

BRIEFINGS

Virtual business on the Internet

A second three-month course in which people will set up virtual businesses on the Internet will be started by the London Enterprise Agency and University College London in January. Participants will join a business club when the course ends to help them with informal networking. For more details, call 0171-236 3000.

The Welsh Office will launch a helpline this autumn, to provide technical advice and information for farmers considering switching to organic farming methods. The information will cover standards, registration, and the type of support available under the Government's Organic Aid scheme. Free follow-up farm visits will also be offered to provide detailed advice on the specific organic conversion needs of individual farmers.

BS7890, a new British Standard for prompt payment, has been launched by the Government to reduce the difficulties that small businesses face when payments are delayed. The standard sets out procedures for both buyers and sellers. Trading standards officers will be able to investigate cases of non-compliance by those claiming to abide by the standard. Copies of BS7890 may be obtained from the British Standards Institution, 0181-996 7000.

Air UK, the scheduled airline, is helping the Livewire campaign to encourage small businesses to break into export markets by providing 100 free and subsidised flights for owner-managers to visit potential markets.

A series of six workshops for Hampshire boatbuilders and others in the maritime industry begins at Hamble River Sailing Club on October 5. A heavy subsidy from Business Link Hampshire has brought down the cost to £20 plus VAT per workshop. Details from Mark Woodroff on 01329 223203.

Three bodies in factoring and invoice discounting have joined to create the Factors & Discounters Association. It has 27 members financing sales of £37 million.

Women begin to take the initiative

By RODNEY HOBSON

SMALL business start-ups in the first six months of 1996 totalled 170,000, the same as in the first half of last year, figures produced by NatWest Bank show. The bank expects the total for this year to reach 350,000, an increase of 5 per cent on last year.

NatWest has noted a trend towards women setting up on

their own to provide personal services ranging from gardening and laundry to private tuition and aromatherapy.

Women start only three in ten new businesses, but more than half of the one-person operations, Ian Peters, head of small business, says. "Women are the business opportunists of the Nineties. They

are seeing, and even predicting, the gaps in the market and are more ready than ever to chase up the chances provided by the changing world of work."

"While women began to enter the boardrooms in a high-profile way in the Eighties, the fact that they are now establishing themselves as business developers of

the decade in one particular sector has largely gone unnoticed."

The new one-woman enterprises are mainly in the South and usually begun by women aged 25 to 34. They are overwhelmingly from the C1 and C2 social groups and work from home. Start-ups have tailed off in central London, with fewer than 2,000 in the second quarter.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

BOUYGUE Machines for sale as a going concern complete with stock and tools. Freehold premises, 10,000 sq ft. Tel: 01705 378700 offices hours

BUSINESS Transfer agency. Operating South West area of nationwide group. Trading since 1978. Tel: 0171 285 4225

FRESHFOLD Investment agency and let to buy. Annual rental £10,000. Tel: 01757 814160

SPAIN COSTA BLANCA Restaurant and bar with sports and leisure centre, including bowling Green, Pool, Tennis etc. Plus living rooms and living accommodation. Good family business in beautiful location. Solid fully equipped. FPH £375,000. Phone 01494 872 850 or Fax 01494 6640 4173

UNUSUAL NURSING CARE HOME BUSINESS Shared and independent 4 hours in M25 & close to coast. Excellent opportunity & trading hours. Good location. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, well garden & land. Further opportunity for growth with great medical facilities. Personal circumstances force sale. £740,000. Contact Tel. No. 01803 732136

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SCOTTISH Highlands Large guest house and 4 children in great area, good school, 2000. Tel: 0121 250 6611

WINDWARD with new location from home, seek buyer for Southern Island wholesale company. Good location, attractive premises, well equipped, profitable, significant potential for national distribution. Current trading volume £50,000 a week. Tel: 01274 635527

NORTH WALES RETAIL BUSINESS Retail business for sale of ready-made up-market clothing & gift department store. Award Winning Business with excellent and expanding profit record. Super location. Valuation £750k. Brochure from principals only to: Pacey, Gange & Co. Tel: 01254 726 244. Fax: 01254 872 127

REGISTRED COMPANY DOCTOR Available to work with any business request to: Pacey, Gange & Co. Tel: 01254 726 244. Fax: 01254 872 127

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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NEW IRISH WHOLESALE CLOTHING COMPANY who is currently supplying major retailers in Ireland is seeking a new partner who is looking for a business in the Irish market. Tel: 0118 942 9267

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GENERAL



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The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

55

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GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Gr
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	+5	+4	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	0	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	-8	
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0	0	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	-1	-8	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn	3.00	-6	-14	
10402	S Glenn	Blackburn	2.00	0	0	
10501	G Marshall	Blackburn	2.00	0	0	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	3.50	+1	+2	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-19	
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	+4	-6	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	-3	-5	
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	0	
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	-2	-9	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-3	-4	
11102	J Kearton	Everton	0.50	0	0	
11103	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	0	
11201	G Rousset	Harts	2.00	-8	-14	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	+5	+6	
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	-5	-18	
11501	M Beoney	Leeds United	1.50	0	0	
11502	C Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	-8	-9	
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0	0	
11602	Z Kalac	Leicester City	0.50	0	0	
11603	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	-5	-7	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	+5	+14	
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	-1	-1	
11802	G van der Gouw	Manchester Utd	1.00	0	0	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0	
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	-1	-1	
12101	S Hisslop	Newcastle Utd	4.00	0	-3	
12102	P Smitcek	Newcastle Utd	3.00	-1	-1	
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-7	-8	
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0	
12203	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0	
12301	S Thompson	Rangers	0.50	-1	-19	
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	+5	+12	
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-1	
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	-1	-5	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	-3	
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0	0	
11803	A Coton	Sunderland	1.00	-1	-10	
12801	I Walker	Tottenham	3.50	+5	+10	
12901	L Mikosko	West Ham	2.00	-3	-10	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.50	+5	+6	
13002	P Head	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0	



Ally McCoist, the Rangers forward, makes his club colleagues happy. But are you happy with his tally in ITF?

DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Gr
30302	U Ehlogu	Aston Villa	3.00	-1	+12	
30303	P McGrath	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0	
30304	C Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0	
30305	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0	
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn	4.00	-6	-6	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn	2.50	0	0	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn	2.50	-4	-7	
30404	N Marker	Blackburn	0.50	0	0	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0	+4	
30502	M Mackay	Celtic	1.50	+3	+3	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0	+1	
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	-2	
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	+3	+22	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+10	
30606	E Johnsen	Chelsea	1.50	0	+13	
30607	J Keldbjerg	Chelsea	0.50	0	0	
30701	L Dashi	Coventry City	2.00	0	-6	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	-5	
30703	D Busest	Coventry City	1.00	0	0	
30801	I Stamat	Derby County	2.50	+3	0	
30803	J Laurens	Derby County	1.00	+4	+3	
30804	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	+1	+1	
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	-1	-1	
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0	0	
31002	I den Bleman	Dunfermline	0.75	0	+1	
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	-2	+3	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	0	+1	
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	+2	+2	
31201	D McPherson	Harts	1.00	-1	0	
31202	R Ritchie	Hibernian	1.00	-5	-1	
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	-1	-4	
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0	+5	
31303	B Walsh	Hibernian	0.75	+4	+8	
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	-2	-3	
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	-3	
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	-1	+1	
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	-1	0	
31503	L Radaba	Leeds United	1.00	0	-6	
31601	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
31602	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	-2	+2	
31603	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	-1	+5	
31701	P Karmark	Leicester City	0.50	0	0	
31801	S Prior	Liverpool	1.00	0	+1	
31701	P Babbs	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+18	
31702	J Scallan	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+12	
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	1.00	+4	+14	
31705	D Mattoo	Liverpool	3.50	0	+2	
31801	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.00	0	+6	
31802	D May	Manchester Utd	2.50	0	+4	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester Utd	1.50	0	-6	
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1	+1	
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+3	
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+3	
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0	+3	
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+7	
32101	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	4.50	0	0	
32102	S Hovey	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	+2	
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	-3	
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-3	0	
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-9	
32301	S Dennis	Rangers	3.50	+4	+14	
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.00	0	0	
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	0	
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	2.50	+1	+8	
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	0	
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	0.25	0	0	
32503	L Unwin	Sheffield Wed	0.25	0	0	
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	-1	-1	
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	-1	-1	
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0	0	
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	0	0	
32701	A McVittie	Sunderland	1.50	0	+10	
32702	B Ball	Sunderland	0.50	0	+9	
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	-3	-10	
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham	2.50	+4	+11	
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham	2.00	0	+8	
32803	G Malbutt	Tottenham	2.00	0	0	
32804	K Scott	Tottenham	0.50	0	0	
32805	S Nethercott	Tottenham	0.50	0	0	
32901	West Ham	West Ham	2.50	-1	-3	
32902	M Rieper	West Ham	2.50	-1	-2	
32903	S Potts	West Ham	2.00	0	-2	
32904	R Hall	West Ham	1.50	0	0	
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham	0.50	0	0	
33001	A Whitbread	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0	
33002	R Thom	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0	
33005	M McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	+4	+9	
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0	

DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Exp	Pts	Wk	Gr
40501	P McStay	Celtic	3.00	0	0	
40502	A Thom	Celtic	2.50	+1	+10	
40503	S Donnelly	Celtic	2.50	0	+2	
40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	+1	+5	
40505	P di Canio	Celtic	3.00	+1	+4	
40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	0	0	
40602	D Wise	Chelsea	3.00	+1	+9	
40603	G Peacock	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	
40604	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+8	
40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
40606	R Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50	0	0	
40608	R di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	0	+10	
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+3	+8	
40702	E Jess	Coventry City	2.00	0	+4	
40703	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+2	
40704	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+4	
40705	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	+2	
40706	M Isaias	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
40707	W Boland	Coventry City	0.25	0	0	
40708	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1	
40801	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	+1	+7	
40802	A Assanovic	Derby County	2.50	+1	+9	
40803	P Simpson	Derby County	1.50	0	+2	
40804	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.50	+2	+2	
40805	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	+2	+4	
40806	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	+2	+3	
40807	G Rowett	Derby County	0.50	+3	+8	
40808	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	+3	+8	
40809	G McSwegan	Dunfermline	2.00	+3	+5	
40902	R Winters	Dunfermline	1.50	+1	+1	
40903	G Johnson	Dunfermline	1.00	0	0	
40904	D Bowman	Dunfermline	0.75	+1	-1	
40905	A Bennaker	Dunfermline	0.50	+1	+2	
41001	H French	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+4	
41002	C Robertson	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+5	
41003	A Smith	Dunfermline	0.75	+4	+7	
41004	D Fleming	Dunfermline	0.50	+2	+6	
41101	K Kerschekis	Everton	1.50	+1	+6	
41102	G Speed	Everton	4.00	0	+8	
41103	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	+1	+4	
41104	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	+1	+7	
41105	A Limper	Everton	1.50	0	0	
41106	T Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+3	
41107	V Samways	Everton	0.50	0	0	
41201	J McManus	Harts	1.50	0	+1	
41202	S Fulton	Harts	1.00	0	+2	
41301	K McAllister	Hibernian	1.50	0	+7	
41302	P McGinlay	Hibernian	1.50	0	0	
41303	G Love	Hibernian	0.75	0	0	
41304	A Millen	Hibernian	0.50	+2	+7	
41305	I Cameron	Hibernian	0.75	0	+1	
41401	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00	+1	+4	
41402	A McInnes	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	0	
41403	M Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	0	
41404	J Lauchlan	Kilmarnock	0.50	0	+2	
41502	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	0	+9	
41503	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+1	
41504	C Palmer	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+7	
41505	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	+1	+3	
41506	I Harle	Leeds United	0.50	+1	+6	
41507	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	0	+4	
41508	A Couzens	Leeds United	0.50	+3	+4	
41509	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+2	
41805	L Sharpe	Leeds United	3.50	0	+9	
41601	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+5	
41602	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+1	
41603	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.00	0	+6	
41604	J Lawrence	Leicester City	0.25	0	0	
40606	M Izet	Leicester City	1.00	+1	+7	
41701	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	+2	+15	
41702	J McAtee	Liverpool	4.00	+2	+8	
41703	J Redknapp	Liverpool	4.00	0	0	
41704	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+2	+12	
41705	M Thomas	Liverpool	2.50	+4	+11	
41706	M Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0	0	
41707	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	+5	+5	
41801	R Giggs	Manchester Utd	7.00	+3	+7	
41802	R Keane	Manchester Utd	4.50	0	+2	
41803	D Beckham	Manchester Utd	4.00	+1	+11	
41804	N Butt	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	+4	
41806	B McEir	Manchester Utd	1.50	0	+2	
41807	C Keoh	Manchester Utd	1.00	0	0	
41808	B Thornley	Manchester Utd	1.00	0	0	
41809	S Davies	Manchester Utd	0.50	0	0	
41810	J Cruyff	Manchester Utd	2.50	0	+10	
41811	K Poborsky	Manchester Utd	4.00	+1	+8	
41901	E Henson	Middlesbrough	3.50	+1	+6	
41902	Juninho	Middlesbrough	3.50	+5	+15	
41903	C Barnett	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	0	
41905	A Moore	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	0	
41906	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+6	
41908	C Liddle	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	0	
41909	B Robson	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	0	
41910	P Stamp	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+2	
42001	C McCart	Motherwell	2.00	+1	+1	

NEWS

Missing bishop steps down

A new crisis over celibacy threatened the stability of the Roman Catholic Church after the resignation of the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, who is believed to be in hiding with the woman he loves.

The Right Rev Roderick Wright quit during an emotional meeting with the leader of Scotland's Roman Catholics, who told him he could remain a priest only if he gave up his longstanding friendship with Kathleen Macphie. Page 1

Tories accuse 'aggressive' Anna Ford

The Conservative Party accused Anna Ford, the Today programme presenter, of "a disgraceful lapse from impartiality" in an interview with Kenneth Clarke, which the Chancellor terminated, and lodged a complaint with the BBC alleging she had been "aggressive" and "extremely rude". Page 1

Beef ultimatum

The Florence deal to end the British beef ban seemed shakier than ever after EU ministers told Britain it must stick to a wide-scale slaughter programme. Page 1

Ashdown attack

Paddy Ashdown today delivers his strongest criticism of the way the European Union operates in a move that will be seen as responding to growing fears that his party's pro-Europeanism may deter voters. Page 1

Prince's task

The Prince of Wales will take over an increasing number of official duties from the Queen, now 70, but he faces life without Camilla Parker Bowles in any of his public roles. Page 2

Horses killed

Four racehorses were killed after a suspected arson attack on the stables of one of Britain's top trainers swept through an indoor riding barn. Page 3

Rapist gets life

A multiple rapist, twice released from prison only to attack women again, was jailed for life with the recommendation that he serve at least 20 years. Page 3

No tales told

Government plans to identify and deal with incompetent teachers are backfiring because inspectors are reluctant to "point the finger", head teachers say. Page 4

Scouts prepare for twentieth century

Scouts are to get a new badge to sew on their uniforms alongside those for tying knots and campfire cooking — one to mark their prowess at public relations. The PR skills proficiency badge features a symbolic mobile telephone, a piece of equipment likely to rank alongside a trusty penknife and woggle as essential scouting kit. Page 1

Church horrors

Freemasonry and watching horror films are among the list of "sins" Church of England recruits will be encouraged to avoid. Page 5

Cancer fear

Women with breast cancer who are referred for specialist treatment are being misled about the experience of some surgeons, a report disclosed. Page 6

Homes plan

Labour leaders are drawing up plans for a mixed state and private sector mortgage insurance scheme to protect homeowners from repossession. Page 8

Chechen return

Russia's security chief, General Aleksandr Lebed, will today attempt to salvage his stalled peace initiative when he returns to Chechnya amid growing fears of a new round of conflict. Page 9

Space 'rescue'

The US space shuttle Atlantis blasted off to bring home the record-breaking woman astronaut Shannon Lucid, who has spent the past six months on Russia's Mir space station. Page 10

Child slaves

Tens of thousands of pre-teen girls are being kept as unpaid servants and sex slaves by west African voodoo priests to atone for family sins against traditional gods and spirits. Page 11



US tank crewmen with the First Cavalry Division play a waiting game yesterday in the Kuwaiti desert, near Iraq. Page 10

BUSINESS

Bank of England: Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said the City of London will thrive whether Britain joins a single European currency or not. "There is no doubt that, provided people are prepared, as we will be, the opportunities far outweigh the risks whether Britain is in or out," he said. Page 25

Dalgety: The BSE crisis cost Dalgety, the petfood giant that makes Spillers and Felix, more than £15 million last year. Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 share index rose 9.3 to 3,977.2. On the foreign exchange the pound rose 25 cents to \$1.5568 but fell 14 pence to DM2.3498. The sterling index closed at 86.1, down from 86.2 on Friday. Page 28

SPORTS

Football: Stewart Houston, the former Arsenal assistant manager, was appointed manager of Queens Park Rangers. Arsène Wenger becomes Arsenal's manager on September 30. Page 48

Crickets: A spectacular collapse by Hampshire, in which they lost eight wickets for seven runs, left Kent with an improved chance of winning the county championship from Leicestershire. Pages 46, 48

Rugby: John Gosden, a leading trainer, says the well-intended whip rules have a serious flaw that will continue making a mockery of racing. Page 44

Rugby union: English clubs have given a verbal assurance that they will take part in the Heineken European Cup. Page 45

ARTS

Loudly flows the Don: Brash, hard-driven conducting marred Welsh National Opera's new *Don Giovanni* — a pity, because the staging by the young director Katie Mitchell was superb. Page 33

Bridgewater verdict: The main problem with the Halle Orchestra's new Manchester home, the Bridgewater Hall, appears to be a lack of aural immediacy in the balcony seats. Page 33

House party: The Tate Gallery in Liverpool has mounted a retrospective devoted to Rachel Whiteread, who came to fame with her *House* in east London. Page 34

Faust at length: Running six hours, the Royal Shakespeare Company's staging of Goethe's *Faust* is not for the impatient. Page 35

FEATURES

Bridging the gap: The Times guide to the gap year offers tips for young people on working abroad, staying in the UK, independent travel and fund-raising. Page 14

Life after MIS: "Now that I have emerged blinking into the daylight, things seem better than I remember them," Stella Rimington, MI5's former Director-General, writes of her new life. Page 15

Voice mail: Beryl Bainbridge wonders whether she has become a transmitter of voices from the past that want to turn the *Titanic* tragedy from an historical event into a work of fiction. Page 15

Court ordeals: The right of accused to defend themselves clashes all too often with victims' rights, says Frances Gibb. Page 37

Euro fears: Lawyers fear the City of London may lose out if European monetary union goes ahead without UK participation. Page 39

Hailed often as the least bad solution, the elections in Bosnia seem above all to be the culmination of rough diplomacy, the timetable for normalisation agreed at Dayton could not tolerate any delay. Neither this hurry nor the little attention paid to the principles of freedom of movement or press freedom will help to resolve the difficulties in Bosnia — Le Monde

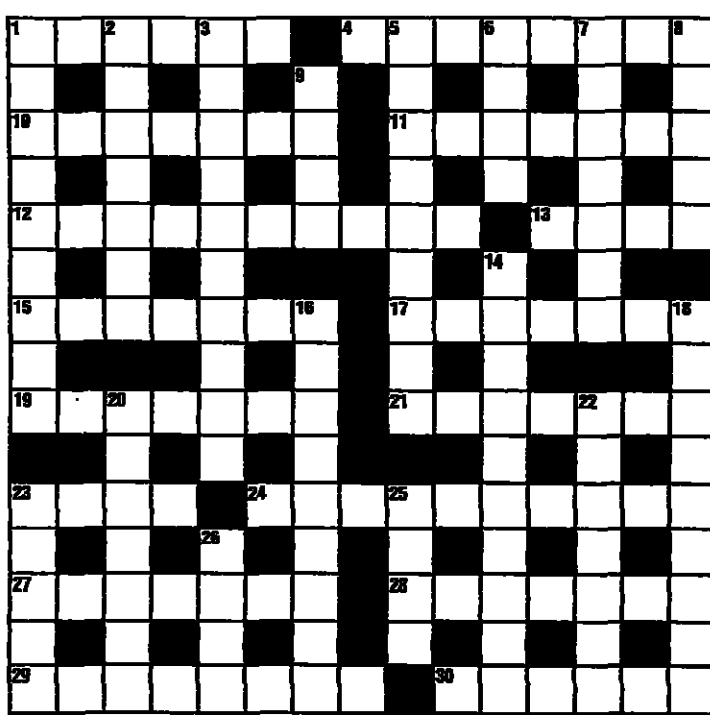
IN THE TIMES

FASHION
Iain R. Webb on what Donna Karan's new store in London will mean for British men

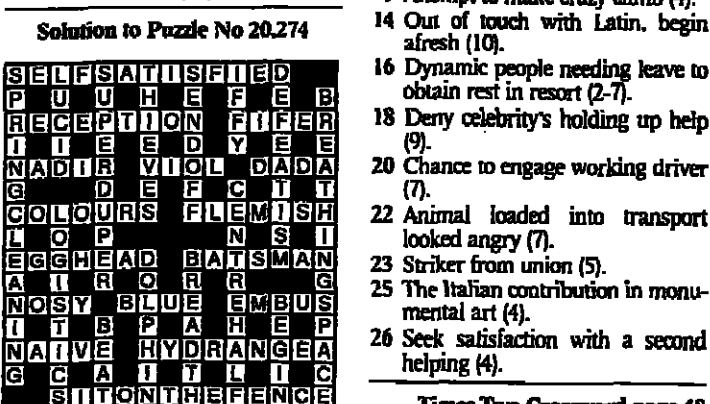
INTERFACE
Win PC hardware and Internet access and a management study course, worth £3,600



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,275



- ACROSS**
- Use strap to put across six — lay it on thick (6)
 - One comic made funny commercial (8)
 - Fellow on beat making contact, at some point (7)
 - It's involved in snort (one side) (7)
 - Fair play in a fight after first part of it (10)
 - He may have pride in being a celebrity (4)
 - Like Peeping Tom looking round, taking shelter at the start (7)
 - Port where some Orangemen live? (7)
 - Why, say, overhead cover is forming a gap (7)
 - Formulates and writes out, and puts in order (5,2)
 - Publication, one for wise long-distance travellers (4)
 - Castle having powerful influence in combination (10)
- DOWN**
- Reduction in overheads for religious order? (7)
 - Earpiece that's given trouble returned to plant (7)
 - Leader of horde with no weapons is not a threat (8)
 - Bumble bee circling frantic lad (6)
 - Fired a lot of shots without point? Exactly so! (9)
 - Hazard from discharge to river (7)
 - Rate capping on the way? (5,5)
 - Escorted prisoner taken by tube (9)
 - Comfortable home in Vine Street (4)
 - Skill one needs to put into short drink (7)
 - He may make money, about a pound (5)
 - Attempt to make crazy climb (4)
 - Out of touch with Latin, begin afresh (10)
 - Dynamic people needing leave to obtain rest in resort (2-7)
 - Deny celebrity's holding up help (9)
 - Chance to engage working driver (7)
 - Animal loaded into transport looked angry (7)
 - Striker from union (5)
 - The Italian contribution in monumental art (4)
 - Seek satisfaction with a second helping (4)



AA ROADWATCH

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0900 1 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Great Britain	201
Kent/Surrey/Sussex	202
Doncaster/Sheff & SOW	203
W & L. Yorkshire	204
W. & S. Wales	205
W. & S. Wales	206
North Wales & E. Wales	207
North Wales & E. Wales	208
North Wales & E. Wales	209
North Wales & E. Wales	210
North Wales & E. Wales	211
North Wales & E. Wales	212
North Wales & E. Wales	213
North Wales & E. Wales	214
North Wales & E. Wales	215
North Wales & E. Wales	216
North Wales & E. Wales	217
North Wales & E. Wales	218
North Wales & E. Wales	219
North Wales & E. Wales	220
North Wales & E. Wales	221
North Wales & E. Wales	222
North Wales & E. Wales	223
North Wales & E. Wales	224
North Wales & E. Wales	225
North Wales & E. Wales	226
North Wales & E. Wales	227
North Wales & E. Wales	228
North Wales & E. Wales	229
North Wales & E. Wales	230

Weatherline is charged at 30p per minute (cheapest rate)

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Location	Sun rises	Sun sets
London	6:38 am	7:10 pm
Bristol	6:38 am	7:10 pm
Edinburgh	7:25 pm to 8:51 am	7:25 pm to 8:51 am
Perth	7:25 pm to 8:51 am	7:25 pm to 8:51 am

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Location	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
London	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8
Manchester	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8
Birmingham	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8
Cardiff	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8
Edinburgh	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8
Glasgow	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8
Sheffield	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8
Nottingham	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8
Leeds	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8
Liverpool	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8
Newcastle	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8
Belfast	11.0	18	64	5	11.0	21	70	8

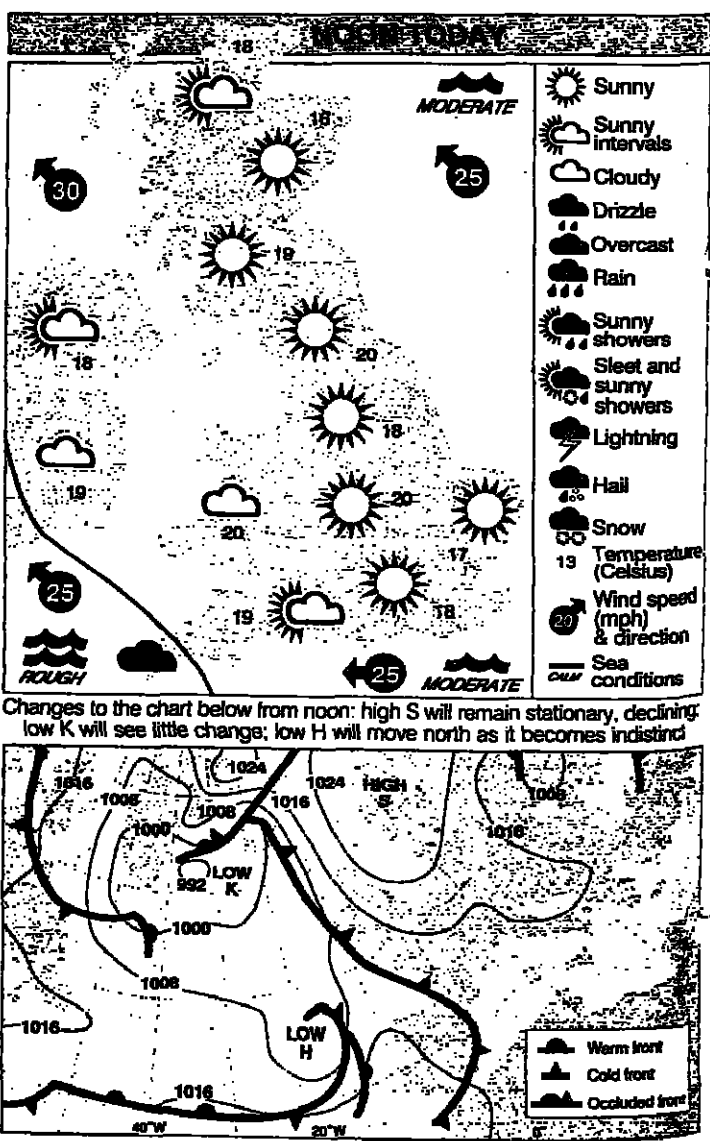
ARGYLL, NW SCOTLAND: dry with long sunny periods. Wind southeasterly, moderate to fresh locally strong. Max 18-20C (64-68F).

SW England, N Ireland: rather cloudy at times with perhaps some patchy light rain in the extreme west. Wind southeasterly, fresh to strong. Max 18C (64F).

NE England, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: dry with sunny spells. Wind east to southeasterly, mostly fresh. Max 15-17C (59-63F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: dry with sunny spells. Wind southeasterly, fresh to strong. Max 13-15C (55-59F).

Outlook: some showers on eastern coasts, otherwise mostly sunny.



Changes to the chart below from noon: high S will remain stationary, declining low K will see little change; low H will move north as it becomes indistinct

HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4:13	7.0	4:24	8.0	4:35	8.0
Aberdeen	3:34	4.2	4:03	4.0	4:17	4.0
Cardiff	9:29	12.3	9:44	12.4	9:58	12.4
Edinburgh	9:18	11.7	9:33	11.8	9:47	11.8
Glasgow	9:08	11.1	9:23	11.2	9:37	11.2
Leeds	8:51	10.6	9:06	10.7	9:20	10.7
Manchester	8:41	10.1	8:56	10.2	9:10	10.2
Newcastle	8:31	9.6	8:46	9.7	9:00	9.7
Nottingham	8:21	9.1	8:36	9.2	8:50	9.2
Sheffield	8:11	8.6	8:26	8.7	8:40	8.7
Southampton	8:01	8.1	8:16	8.2	8:30	8.2
Swansea	7:51	7.6	8:06	7.7	8:20	7.7
Torquay	7:41	7.1	7:56	7.2	8:10	7.2
Weymouth	7:31	6.6	7:46	6.7	8:00	6.7
Woolwich	7:21	6.1	7:36	6.2	7:50	6.2
Wynnef	7:11	5.6	7:26	5.7	7:40	5.7
Wynnef	7:01	5.1	7:16	5.2	7:30	5.2
Wynnef	6:51	4.6	7:06	4.7	7:20	4.7
Wynnef	6:41	4.1	6:56	4.2	7:10	4.2
Wynnef	6:31	3.6	6:46	3.7	7:00	3.7
Wynnef	6:21	3.1	6:36	3.2	6:50	3.2
Wynnef	6:11	2.6	6:26	2.7	6:40	2.7
Wynnef	6:01	2.1	6:16	2.2	6:30	2.2
Wynnef	5:51	1.6	6:06	1.7	6:20	1.7
Wynnef	5:41	1.1	5:56	1.2	6:10	1.2
Wynnef	5:31	0.6	5:46	0.7	6:00	0.7
Wynnef	5:21	0.1	5:36	0.2	5:50	0.2
Wynnef	5:11	-0.4	5:26	-0.3	5:40	-0.3
Wynnef	5:01	-0.9	5:16	-0.8	5:30	-0.8
Wynnef	4:51	-1.4	5:06	-1.3	5:20	-1.3
Wynnef	4:41	-1.9	4:56	-1.8	5:10	-1.8
Wynnef	4:31	-2.4	4:46	-2.3	5:00	-2.3
Wynnef	4:21	-2.9	4:36	-2.8	4:50	-2.8
Wynnef	4:11	-3.4	4:26	-3.3	4:40	-3.3
Wynnef	4:01	-3.9	4:16	-3.8	4:30	-3.8
Wynnef	3:51	-4.4	4:06	-4.3	4:20	-4.3
Wynnef	3:41	-4.9	3:56	-4.8	4:10	-4.8
Wynnef	3:31	-5.4	3:46	-5.3	4:00	-5.3
Wynnef	3:21	-5.9	3:36	-5.8	3:50	-5.8
Wynnef	3:11	-6.4	3:26	-6.3	3:40	-6.3
Wynnef	3:01	-6.9	3:16	-6.8	3:30	-6.8
Wynnef	2:51	-7.4	3:06	-7.3	3:20	-7.3
Wynnef	2:41	-7.9	2:56	-7.8	3:10	-7.8
Wynnef	2:31	-8.4	2:46	-8.3	3:00	-8.3
Wynnef	2:21	-8.9	2:36	-8.8	2:50	-8.8
Wynnef	2:11	-9.4	2:26	-9.3	2:40	-9.3
Wynnef	2:01	-9.9	2:16	-9.8	2:30	-9.8
Wynnef	1:51	-10.4	2:06	-10.3	2:20	-10.3
Wynnef	1:41	-10.9	1:56	-10.8	2:10	-10.8
Wynnef	1:31	-11.4	1:46	-11.3	2:00	-11.3
Wynnef	1:21	-11.9	1:36	-11.8	1:50	-11.8
Wynnef	1:11	-12.4	1:26	-12.3	1:40	-12.3
Wynnef	1:01	-12.9	1:16	-12.8	1:30	-12.8
Wynnef	0:51	-13.4	1:06	-13.3	1:20	-13.3
Wynnef	0:41	-13.9	0:56	-13.8	1:10	-13.8
Wynnef	0:31	-14.4	0:46	-14.3	1:00	-14.3
Wynnef	0:21	-14.9	0:36	-14.8	0:50	-14.8
Wynnef	0:11	-15.4	0:26	-15.3	0:40	-15.3
Wynnef	0:01	-15.9	0:16	-15.8	0:30	-15.8

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Yesterday's highest dry temp: Colwyn Bay, North Wales, 24C (75F); lowest dry temp for July, Shetland, 13C (55F); highest rainfall: no measurable amount; highest sunshine: Shetland, 12 hrs.

11 WAYS TO GET TAX FREE CASH

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Total number of lives saved so far this year: 495